Hafa Adai!

Apatang thanks South Korean students for Managaha cleanup. PAGE 2

US House subcommittee adds 4 NMI projects to its proposed budget. PAGE 3

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 123
WEDNESDAY JUNE 22, 2022
www.saipantribune.com
www.facebook.com/saipantribune

DANCE OF JOY
Much to the delight of spectators, an enthusiastic delegation from the Solomon Islands perform a foot-stomping dance during the opening ceremony for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 at the newly-rehabilitated Oleai track and field last Friday, June 17, 2022.
MARK RABAGO

Torres opposes OAG's motion to exclude evidence of others who traveled 1st class

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The lawyers of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres wants denied the Office of the Attorney General's motion to bar the introduction of evidence relating to other governmental officials who also travelled first class, premium class, or business class.

OAG chief solicitor Robert Glass recently filed a motion in *limine* seeking to prohibit Torres and his defense team from bringing up certain evidence in trial about other government employees

See TORRES on Page 4

Villagomez seeking a 6th term

» 5 are running for Rota senator

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Villagomez

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez is seeking a sixth term in the House of Representatives representing Precinct 3.

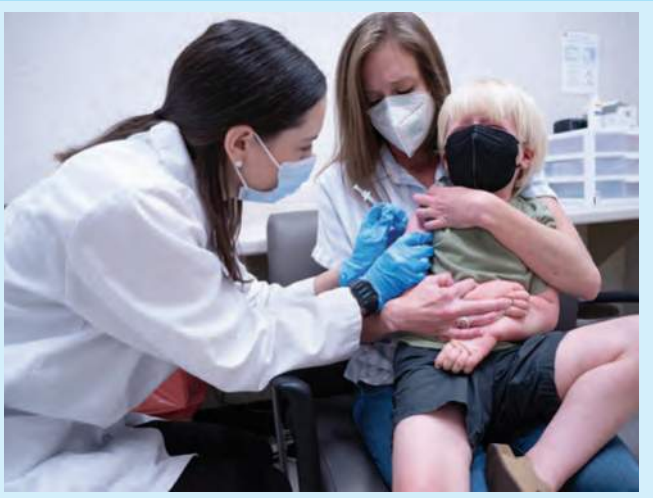
Villagomez confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that he is seeking reelection as an independent. He said yesterday that he is going

See SEEKING on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



SHOTS FOR TOTS:

COVID vaccinations start for little US kids

By LINDSEY TANNER and ANGIE WANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Little Fletcher Pack woke up Monday morning and asked: "Is today vaccine day?"

For the 3-year-old from Lexington, South Carolina,

See COVID on Page 4

Pharmacist Kaitlin Harring, left, administers a Moderna COVID-19 vaccination to three year-old Fletcher Pack, while he sits on the lap of his mother, McKenzie Pack, at Walgreens pharmacy Monday, June 20, 2022, in Lexington, S.C.
AP

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Hong Kong's iconic Jumbo Floating Restaurant has capsized in the South China Sea.
PAGE 11

WORLD
The world's largest recorded freshwater fish, a giant stingray, has been caught in Cambodia.
PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE
The Nobel Peace Prize sold to raise money for Ukrainian refugees sold for $103.5 million.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Apatang thanks South Korean students for Managaha cleanup

GEO School students from South Korean join Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang outside the Mayor's Office after receiving their certificates of appreciation LEIGH GASES

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang on Friday presented 35 South Korean students with certificates of appreciation for helping clean up Managaha during a beach cleanup last June 14.

Apatang also urged the students to tell their friends and family about how beautiful Saipan is and to visit the island another time.

The 35 students of the Global Education Oriented or GEO School, who are on Saipan as part of a student exchange program between Saipan and South Korea, are on island to do volunteer performances, during which they performed and showcased their musical talents in different performances over the past two weeks. The students form part of a saxophone ensemble and flute team.

GEO School's saxophone ensemble join their school principal Kwang Yui Seo in performing at the Agape Christian School last Thursday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The saxophone ensemble consists of junior and senior high school students Jae-Wan Ju, Jio Kim, JeongU Im, MeeSun Song, Eun-Woo Cho, Yerim Hwang, YeYeong Hwang, led by the principal of GEO School conductor and musician KwangYul Seo, and the flute team members HyeWon Go and ChoEun Kim.

Their volunteer performances took place at the Man'amko Center on June 10, at the I Love Saipan outdoor stage on June 12, at the Mariana Lighthouse on June 14, at Agape Christian School on June 18, and during the first day of the Taste of the Marianas on June 18.

This was not the first time GEO School students visited Saipan; their visit this year makes it the sixth time, said Natalia Kim, English teacher and the students' chaperone.

When asked how the students feel about their visit this time around, she said, "They really love it. They love the views, they love the sea. They love sightseeing."

During their Agape School performance, school principal Jimeian Pang said this was their first time to participate in an exchange program. In the crowd watching were 105 of Agape students and staff. After GEO School's performances, Agape students also treated them to songs and performances on the guitar. They held friendly sports matches at the Agape gym and held a barbecue gathering at the GEO School's lodging in the afternoon.

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.
Established October 2011
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS
Catch up with Immunizations
Routine Immunization helps protect against 14 diseases
Find out if your child is up to date
Schedule an appointment to catch up with Immunizations
Call the CHCC Immunization Program at
(670) 236-8745 (Saipan)
(670) 433-9233 (Tinian)
(670) 532-9461 (Rota)
This project was supported by Grant 6 NH23IP-922587-03-01 CFDA93.268 from CDC and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and necessarily represent the official views of CDC or HHS.
WWW.CHCC.HEALTH
@CNMIPOPHEALTH
@CHCCMICAH

SIGNS OF 'TASTE'
Colorful signs of some Saipan villages are seen decorating a portion of a booth at the 23rd Annual Taste of the Marianas. LEIGH GASES

Brain Builders Café promotes science of early learning

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Evergreen Learning conducted its third CNMI Brain Builders Café with parents and community members last May 31, 2022, at the Rendezvous Restaurant on Middle Road.

CNMI parents and community members got another opportunity to obtain information about the Child Care Development Fund Program's Science of Early Learning Initiative through what's called "CNMI Brain Builders Café."

The Science of Early Learning-CNMI Brain Builders Team from Evergreen Learning conducted its third CNMI Brain Builders Café with parents and community members last May 31, 2022, at Rendezvous Restaurant on Middle Road, facilitated by SOEL coordinator Melissa Palacios.

This café session was offered to parents and community members in the Chalan Kiya, Chalan Laulau, and San Jose area. The focus of this café session was centered around brain building basics, the stages of brain development, and the life skills that brain building strategies support and strengthen.

In partnership with the DCCA Child Care and Development Fund Program, Evergreen Learning calls upon parents, guardians, caregivers, teachers, and anyone who provides services or care for children ages 0-5 to join the effort in elevating the importance of the first five years of children's growth and development. Together, let's build our children's brains!

To find out more about attending a CNMI Brain Builders Café, email cnmibrainbuilders@evergreenlearning.org, or call (670) 785-1305, or join the CNMI Brain Builders Facebook community at https://www.facebook.com/groups/cnmibrainbuilders/. ***(PR)***

ARMATECH
PABX Telephone System Installer

Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

US House subcommittee adds 4 NMI projects to its proposed budget

The U.S. House of Representatives' Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee added Wednesday the request of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to add to its fiscal year 2023 spending bill four community projects in the CNMI worth $6.2 million.

In his e-kilili newsletter shared with media over the weekend, Sablan said two projects are for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. while two others are for public libraries on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and for Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

For CHCC, $389,250 is intended to allow Tinian residents with end-stage renal disease to have access to life-sustaining treatment on their home island.

Sablan

Another $4,189,500 will provide approximately 100 parking stalls to help reduce congestion and delays in checking in patients at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Sablan said public libraries on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota would benefit from $436,191 to upgrade and replace furniture and supplies.

Also added to the Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee's spending bill was Sablan's request for $1,200,000 to help the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library implement a solar power system to decrease its energy costs and reduce the Commonwealth's dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Sablan said the legislation making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies programs for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2023, now heads to the full committee for consideration. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Torres says he did accept Peter's resignation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said Friday he did accept the resignation of Public Auditor Kina B. Peter, who will pursue another job opportunity, and acknowledged that he has not named her successor yet.

In response to a question during a press briefing, Torres said he has not appointed anyone yet to replace Peter, whose resignation is effective on July 8.

"But yes, I have accepted the resignation," the governor said. He did not elaborate.

Torres

Peter

» Peter confirms she is joining private company on Saipan

Peter was sworn in for the six-year term as public auditor only 15 months ago. She submitted her resignation letter to Torres last May 10.

Torres appointed Peter in November 2020, making her the CNMI's first female Public Auditor.

Recently, Rep. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) introduced an initiative that would make the CNMI's public auditor an elective position.

Magofna's House Legislative Initiative 22-2 proposes to amend Article 3, Section 12 of the CNMI Constitution in order to remove the governor's authority to appoint a public auditor.

When asked for comments about the proposed initiative, Torres said Friday that he has not seen or read the initiative yet.

Peter in an interview Monday said she will be joining a private company here on Saipan. Peter said she will soon announce what company is hiring her.

Huang graduates from Lehigh U with honors

BETHLEHEM, PA—Surui Huang of Saipan recently graduated with honors from Lehigh University in spring 2022, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and Business degree with a major(s) in Computer Science and Business.

Huang was among the more than 1,500 students who received undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees during commencement exercises in May 2022. ***(PR)***

First Hawaiian Bank
UNITED
Business
Special Offer
30,000 BONUS MILES*
WELCOME
WE ARE
OPEN
PLEASE COME IN
Take your business to new heights with the United Business Credit Card.
Earn 30,000 bonus miles after spending $3,000 within the first 3 months after account opening. Plus, earn 3x miles per $1 spent on United tickets through United until April 30, 2023 (2x miles thereafter).*
Visit any branch or go to fhb.com/united-business to apply today!
First Hawaiian Bank
It all starts with yes.
FHB.com
UNITED MileagePlus
Member FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
*Subject to credit approval. Apply for the United® Credit Card by 6/30/22 and, if you are approved, earn 30,000 bonus United MileagePlus® Miles with $3,000 spend within the first 3 months after account opening and 3x United MileagePlus Miles per $1 spent on United Airline tickets purchased through United ticketing channels until 4/30/2023 (2x miles per $1 spent thereafter). In addition, earn 1x United MileagePlus Mile per $1 spent on all other net qualifying purchases. After qualifying, please allow 6-8 weeks for bonus miles to post to your MileagePlus account. To be eligible for this bonus offer, account must be open and not in default at the time of fulfillment of bonus miles. United MileagePlus Miles have no cash value except as described in the United Program Agreement. See fhb.com/united-business for more details.
Miles accrued, awards, and benefits issued are subject to change and are subject to the rules of the United MileagePlus® program, including without limitation the Premier® program (the "MileagePlus Program"), which are expressly incorporated herein. Please allow 6-8 weeks after completed qualifying activity for miles to post to your account. United® may change the MileagePlus Program including, but not limited to, rules, regulations, travel awards and special offers or terminate the MileagePlus Program at any time and without notice. United and its subsidiaries, affiliates and agents are not responsible for any products or services of other participating companies and partners. Taxes and fees related to award travel are the responsibility of the member. Bonus award miles, award miles and any other miles earned through non-flight activity do not count toward qualification for Premier status unless expressly stated otherwise. The accumulation of mileage or Premier status or any other status does not entitle members to any vested rights with respect to the MileagePlus Program. All calculations made in connection with the MileagePlus Program, including without limitation with respect to the accumulation of mileage and the satisfaction of the qualification requirements for Premier status, will be made by United Airlines® and MileagePlus in their discretion and such calculations will be considered final. Information in this communication that relates to the MileagePlus Program does not purport to be complete or comprehensive and may not include all of the information that a member may believe is important, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to all of the information on the united.com website and the MileagePlus Program rules. United and MileagePlus are registered service marks. For complete details about the MileagePlus Program, go to united.com.

IN CASE OF MAN ACCUSED OF SMUGGLING 'ICE'

Defense wants drug evidence found in car suppressed

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The defense counsel of a man accused of smuggling over 4.9 lbs of methamphetamine or "ice" through the U.S. Postal Service is accusing CNMI authorities of conducting an unlawful, warrantless search of her client's vehicle and has asked the court to suppress any evidence discovered as a result of the search.

Assistant public defender Vina Seelam, defense counsel to Yuzhu Zhang, who is charged with importation of contraband, trafficking, and possession of a controlled substance, has filed a motion to suppress any evidence discovered in her client's vehicle as well as any observations made by the authorities during and after the search of her client's vehicle because the search was essentially unlawful.

"Police had ample opportunity to seek and obtain a warrant to search her client's vehicle, but they failed to do so and instead conducted an unlawful warrantless search. Customs officers had already removed all suspected contraband from the parcel before it was transported from the post office in Chalan Kanoa to the… postal establishment in Garapan, where it was picked up by the defendant. Because the parcel did not contain contraband when it left the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa, the Customs officers did not have lawful jurisdiction from that point onwards to conduct any searches or seizures. Their detention of Zhang and their search of his rental vehicle was therefore unlawful," she said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, officers found 19 small clear plastic baggies containing white crystalline substance yielding a presumptive positive result for methamphetamine weighing at approximately 26.3 gross grams in Zhang's vehicle following the allegedly unlawful search.

Seelam explained in her motion that in order to justify the search of Zhang's vehicle, the Commonwealth would need to prove that the parcel the Customs officers were tracking actually contained suspected contraband up until the point when Zhang was detained and searched; the detention and search occurred within 72 hours after the arrival into the Commonwealth of the suspected contraband in the parcel; and that the container holding the suspected contraband was subjected to constant surveillance by Customs from the point of entry into the Commonwealth.

However, Seelam claims that there was a period when the parcel was not subjected to constant surveillance by Customs from its point of entry into the Commonwealth.

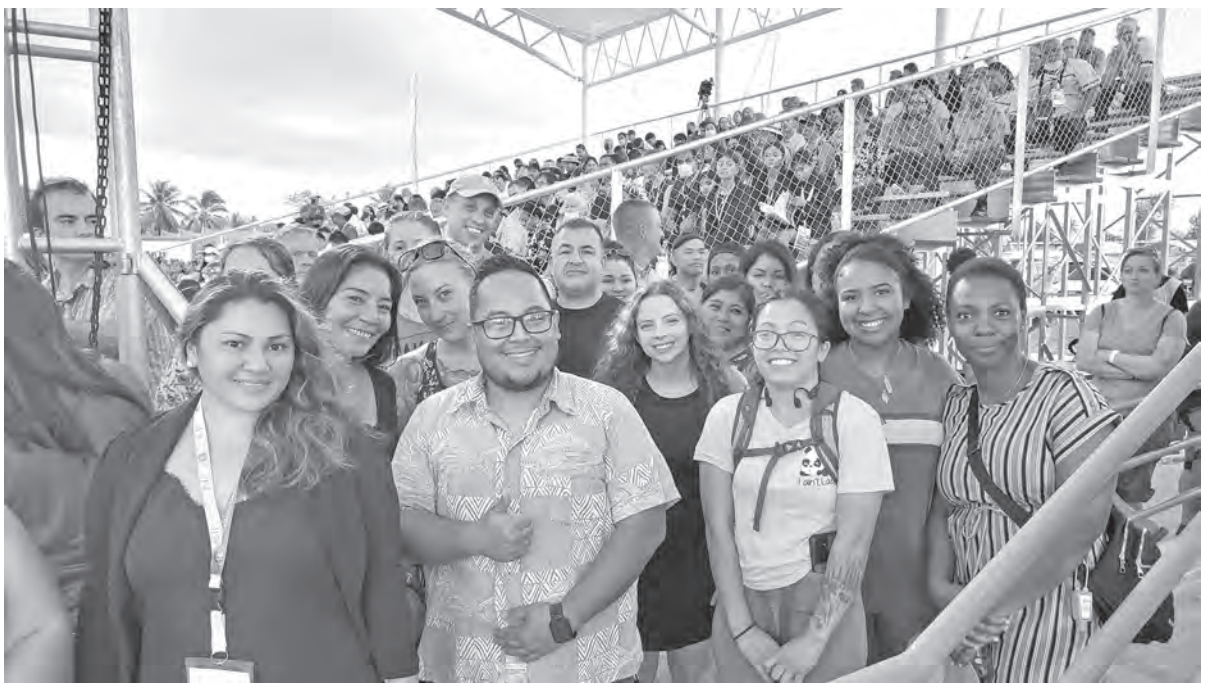
"A CCC employee learned that the parcel containing suspected methamphetamine had been picked up from the post office by a Quick Print employee on March 18, 2022, the day before Customs officer Franklin Sablan searched the parcel and discovered suspected methamphetamine inside it, and had been returned to the post office that same day. Regardless of when the parcel arrived into the Commonwealth, Customs lost authority to search the parcel once it was picked up from the post office in Chalan Kanoa on March 18 by a Quick Print employee, because Customs failed to track the parcel's whereabouts that day," Seelam said.

Zhang's jury trial has been set for Sept. 26, 2022.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho previously imposed a $1 million cash bail on Zhang, who is currently in the custody of the Department of Corrections.

According to court documents, Zhang, through an interpreter, told police that an "unknown male" offered him $100 to pick up a large parcel of Chinaware at a Garapan postal service and to bring it to the back of a Mobil gas station on Beach Road.

Zhang also stated that the $4,239 in cash found inside his vehicle was his, but not the 19 small clear plastic bags.



VETERINARY SERVICES

Glenna S. Palacios, special assistant to the Governor for Military Affairs, second from left, poses for a photo with members of the U.S. Army Reserves Medical Detachment Veterinary Support Command as they watch the opening ceremony of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games at the Oleai Sports Complex last Friday. The members are here providing veterinary services at no cost to the community.

FERDIE DELA TORRE

COVID

From Page 1

the answer was yes.

The nation's infants, toddlers and preschoolers are finally getting their chance at COVID-19 vaccination as the U.S. rolls out shots for tots this week. Shipments arrived in some locations over the weekend and some spots, including a Walgreens in South Carolina and another in New York City, opened up appointments for Monday.

Fletcher's mother said that once her son is fully vaccinated, he can finally go bowling and visit the nearby children's museum.

"He's never really played with another kid inside before," McKenzie Pack said. "This will be a really big change for our family."

She began seeking an appointment last week as U.S. regulators took steps to OK the vaccines for kids 6 months to 5 years old.

"It's just relief," said Pack. "With this vaccine, that'll be his best shot at going back to normal and having a normal childhood."

The Food and Drug Administration greenlighted the Moderna and Pfizer kid shot s on Friday and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended them Saturday. In the U.S., COVID-19 vaccines were first tested and given in late 2020 to health care workers and older adults. Teens and school-age kids were added last year.

"This is certainly an exciting moment in what has become a very long campaign to vaccinate people against COVID-19,"said Dr. Matthew Harris, an emergency room pediatrician at Northwell Cohen Children's Medical Center in New York.

Many parents have been anxiously awaiting the rollout, and Harris said shots for his own 9-month-old are a "matter of when, not if."

Roughly 18 million youngsters under 5 are eligible.

"It's just a huge step toward normalcy," said Dr. Debra Langlois, pediatrician at University of Michigan Health C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

"We're two-plus years into this pandemic and there's things that my 4-year-old has never been able to do," Langlois said.

SEEKING

From Page 1

to issue a statement about his candidacy soon.

Villagomez was the top vote-getter at the Nov. 3, 2020 general elections. He has been serving the House representing Precinct 3 since the 18th Legislature. He became the House speaker in January 2021 after Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) flipped his vote and broke the even split in the voting for the speakership.

On Rota, five candidates will be squaring off for the two Senate positions on Nov. 8.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) is seeking election as a senator.

Aside from Manglona, *Saipan Tribune* learned that Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig and CNMI Department of Homeland Security special assistant Dennis Mendiola are also going to be running for senator under the Republican Party. Former representative Crispin Ogo and former teacher Edward Maratita Jr. are also running for a Senate seat as independent candidates.

Ogo served two terms—2004 to 2008—in the House of Representatives representing Rota.

Maratita is a former teacher of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, the only parochial school on Rota. He is also a veteran.

The terms of Sens. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) and Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) are expiring in January 2023.

Two Senate seats for each island of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, are up for grabs in the Nov. 8 elections.

Meanwhile, Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan also confirmed yesterday that he is sticking to his plan to seek re-election as mayor under the Republican Party. He was elected as mayor in 2018.

TORRES

From Page 1

who have travelled first class. A motion in *limine* is defined as "[a] pretrial request that certain inadmissible evidence not be referred to or offered at trial."

However, according to the opposition filed by Torres' lawyers yesterday, the OAG did not explain in its *limine* motion how each evidence it seeks to exclude is: highly prejudicial, does not relate to any confrontation of a prosecution witness, does not tend to negate an essential element of each offense charged in the Information, and is not relevant to any defense theory.

"The prosecution does not explain how curative instructions can address its purported concerns. Instead, it appears that the prosecution is trying to use the in *limine* motion to preclude Gov. Torres from using evidence to effectively challenge the prosecution's proof as well as support his defenses," the lawyer stated.

Torres is represented by a team of lawyers including Viola Alepuyo, Victorino Torres, Matthew Holley, and Anthony Aguon.

The defense explained that, by seeking to preclude the introduction of evidence relating to other governmental officials who travelled premium class, the OAG seeks to deprive Torres of key evidence to rebut essential elements of counts 1 to 13 filed against him, which relate to the issuance of airline tickets.

"The Legislature did not impose a civil monetary fine on a person who travelled in first or business class. Instead, the Legislature imposed a civil money penalty on the government employee who 'caused' the issuance of a ticket. Gov. Torres' defense to Counts 1-13 include showing that he did not 'cause' the issuance of a ticket in violation of § 7407(f). This means that Gov. Torres, as a defense, can show that someone other than himself caused the issuance of the tickets at issue," the defense explained.

The defense team added that evidence concerning tickets relating to the travel by other governmental officials in first class is necessary to show the commonality or consistent thread regarding the issuance of airline tickets to establish that someone other than Torres or the person traveling "caused" the issuance of airline tickets for government travel.

"Depriving Gov. Torres of such evidence precludes him from proving that 'issuance' of airline travel tickets for all Commonwealth travel is within the exclusive domain of a particular agency and if Torres is not an employee of that particular agency or department, then he did not violate the law," the motion said.

The governor's team of lawyers claim that the OAG's requests may not be seeking an in *limine* ruling but is an effort for the court to implement a new evidentiary rule or procedure that will effectively disrupt the defense's presentation at trial by requiring prior court permission before asking any question or pursuing inquiry into travel by other governmental officials.

Aside from prohibiting evidence regarding other government officials flying first class, Glass also sought to bar the defendant from introducing evidence, making arguments, or otherwise mentioning any potential penalties or collateral consequences he faces if convicted; bar the defense from stating or arguing that the prosecution is politically motivated; and to bar Torres' team from mentioning the upcoming 2022 general election "as such has no bearing on any fact that would be relevant for this trial," Glass stated in his motion.

Pride Marianas Youth holds health fair at NMC

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The health fair hosted by Pride Marianas Youth, Pride Marianas, and The Marianas T-Project at the Northern Marianas College campus last June 8 drew close to 100 community members for an afternoon of free health screenings, free Zumba by Fitbeat, music, raffles, free gym membership sign-ups, healthy eating demonstrations, and outreach booths.

Called "Summer Lovin', Love Yourself, Love Everybody Health Fair," the event at the at the NMC Mango Terrace also featured Pride Marianas and Tyler's Gelatte Stone, along with educational and community outreach vendors from different health care providers and non-profit organizations, included Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Noncommunicable Disease Bureau, CHCC STD/HIV Program, CNMI Suicide Prevention, Haligi Aware/Public School System Mental Health, Run Saipan, Latte Built Fitness, and Body by Jerry Athletics, NMC CREES, 500 Sails, and Project Proa.

"We wanted to do an intimate health fair that just empowered the community to be more inclusive as far as healthcare is concerned," said Dan Brown, vice president of Pride Marianas Youth.

Statistically, the LGBTQ+ population are at high risk for a lot of health and wellness barriers or barriers to health care, "so we just wanted to invite different agencies and organizations to kind of show support for Pride Month and also to talk about promoting overall wellness for the community at large," he added.

Brown said the turnout was "surprisingly good" considering that it was a Wednesday.

"What really made me feel like we made an impact is just seeing the youth participate and just creating a safe space for them to see that there's a community of support for them, so that was really inspiring. I spoke to NMC and they're really glad that we decided to use their space, because they're still waiting for their campus to start building again but this is a really good area for a small kind of event like this and they're just happy that we decided to partner with them to bring something for Pride," said Brown.

One of the outreach booths, Latte Built Gym signed up about 40 new members during the event and about 70 overall with their free gym membership promotion during the whole month of June for Pride Month.

Latte Built Gym operations manager Seiji Sonoda said: "I'm very impressed with how Pride Marianas, Pride Marianas Youth, and the T-Project have really pulled together this year. I've been here for a couple of the other years but this year was exceptional. I know they have a whole calendar of events for the whole month of June. They've garnered so much support from the community and you see it everywhere."

Another outreach booth was Body by Jerry Athletics who held a "mindful minute" breathing technique that was participated by 42 people at the event.

FSM files criminal charges vs Pohnpei officials for alleged COVID violations

PALIKIR, Pohnpei— Five Pohnpei state government officials, including the acting governor, and the chair of the Pohnpei State COVID-19 Task Force, were arrested and criminally charged before the FSM Supreme Court last June 16, 2022, in connection with over 200 counts of criminal violations involving breaches of civil rights considered as a felony under national law, false imprisonment, multiple violations of emergency decrees and Standard Operating Procedures for COVID-19 quarantine, and the intentional disabling of the Medical Monitoring Area quarantine facility in Dekehtik during the June 12 repatriation flight from Guam.

The June 12 repatriation flight into Pohnpei (which departed Guam on June 11 but arrived in Pohnpei on June 12) brought a total of 71 passengers, 70 of whom were assigned to the Emergency Medical Unit for their in-country quarantine. The EMU has a total of 26 rooms which, according to the submitted documents' arguments, were insufficient to quarantine the 70 arriving passengers and resulted in an unacceptable overcrowding of the lobby and hallway of the EMU, forcing travelers to sleep on the floor and with no provisions for clean water, beddings, bedsheets, and pillows. The FSM national government suggests in its filings that there were no adequate bathroom facilities under these conditions, and no social/physical distancing observed; by extension, the government argues that there was no quarantine in the sense of the COVID-19 protocols required under the circumstances.

The FSM national government argues in its submitted documents that Pohnpei state government previously announced its readiness in anticipation of the June 12 repatriation flight, and that the Pohnpei State COVID-19 Task Force had instructed relevant parties to not prepare the second quarantine facility, the MMA, in advance of the repatriation flight. Hence, no cleanup and disinfection processes were conducted, even though the MMA quarantine manager was allegedly ready and willing to do so. In effect, the disabling of the MMA quarantine facility disrupted and obstructed the quarantine process that—for the arriving passengers—had started in Guam for a period of three days prior to their repatriation flight. The EMU was insufficient to safely accommodate all the 70 passengers assigned to it. According to information, the Pohnpei State COVID-19 Task Force advised that it required four days to clean the MMA, although the FSM national government medical team that cleaned the MMA site required less than 24 hours to accomplish this task. The Pohnpei state government did not clean or prepare the MMA quarantine site prior to the arrival of the flight, and maintained this position until after the flight arrived, when the FSM national government took the initiative to offer assistance to clean and disinfect the facility, when passengers were overcrowding the lobby of the EMU facility.

Almost all of the travelers from a previous repatriation flight in May were released several days prior, on June 7, and as such the FSM national government believes that the Pohnpei State COVID-19 Task Force could have initiated all the necessary cleaning and disinfecting procedures for the vacated MMA rooms prior to the June 12 repatriation flight, but the state Task Force allegedly decided and instructed against this. The FSM national government maintains that this deprives travelers of their right to a proper, and by extension safe, quarantine.

The criminal charges filed against then-acting Pohnpei governor Christina Elnei; the chair of the Pohnpei State COVID-19 Task Force, Norleen Oliver-DeOrio; the Director of Public Safety, Patrick Carl; the Pohnpei state public information officer, Patrick Pedrus; and the commissioner for the Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Corp., Peterson Sam, are pending before the FSM Supreme Court. ***(PR)***

11 CNMI students join Close-Up Program in DC

Eleven students from different schools in the CNMI took part in the Close-Up Insular Program in Washington, D.C. from May 13 to 28, joining other students from different states, territories, and Palau in an educational tour of the nation's capital, Williamsburg, Arlington, Philadelphia, and New York City.

The eleven students from the CNMI were Sharon Calamaan, Sara Keaton, Zenn Tomokane, and Amira De Guzman of Marianas High School; Jimmina Flamar of Kagman High School; Tammy Fernandez of Rota's Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School; Andrew Sunderland and Elyza Pamintuan of Saipan Southern High School; Ismail Hossain of Tinian Jr./Sr. High School; Tiana Cabrera of Saipan International School; and Ryan Quitano of Da'ok Academy. They were accompanied by PSS Close-Up adviser Vinni Orsini and Patricia Sablan from MHS.

The Close-Up Program aims to teach students about government by showing them new places and meeting different people that makes the government possible. The program also gives students a chance to practice being future government leaders and to listen to each other's voices.

While in Washington, D,C., the students toured different sites and memorials with significance to U.S. history, including the U.S. Capitol, Lincoln Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery. Students also got the chance to meet with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

CNMI students participating in the Close-Up Program have their picture taken while visiting the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"The location that I probably loved the most was Capitol Hill. I loved that location the most because I got to meet Rep. Kilili Sablan and I also got to see the inside of the Capitol building," said Pamintuan.

"My favorite and most memorable place I enjoyed going to was the memorial for the Vietnam War because the view was amazing and the drawings explained the war very well and the statutes. Not only did it bring peace, but it reminded me of my grandpa a lot since he was part of the war," Cabrera said.

It wasn't all just touring, though. At the end of the day, the students would discuss what they've learned and take part in activities that focused on the sites they visited. One notable activity was the Mock Congress, where students were given issues that they debated. Once a decision is made, the students would draft laws of their own and vote on whether the law should be passed.

"One important idea[s] I took away from the workshops is that most decisions are not clear-cut at all. In fact, many of them have compromises for upsides and downsides. Everyone knows this, but I think it was important to see this type of idea in action ourselves as students," said Sunderland. "Our discussion was about climate change, and multiple options were given to us in groups for us to decide how we would enact policies that would affect the whole nation. Everything had pros and cons, forcing us to debate our positions on what policies were more effective than others. It was surely a learning experience for everyone."

In their final week, the students toured Colonial Williamsburg, Philadelphia's Independence Hall/Liberty Bell, and multiple locations around New York City such as the Statue of Liberty and the 9/11 Memorial.

"My experiences from the program have pushed me into wanting to assert more action [on] my island because I feel like my generation has the voice and courage to change many of the issues that Saipan suffers through," said Calamaan.

CNMI Close-Up students visit the UN Headquarters in New York City.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Many of the students later described the trip as memorable and life-changing. We asked what he thought was most memorable, Quitano said, "The people I was surrounded [with]. My group and the other island groups made those unfamiliar waters easier to sail through. We started bare but built a support structure that could lift us all."

Amira De Guzman said that what made the trip memorable for her "were the friends I made throughout the entirety of it. I was able to meet wonderful and intellectual people from places I've never been to, and I was able to have deeper bonds with the CNMI group."

The students also enjoyed the locations they visited. "The Smithsonian Museum of National History is my favorite! I was roaming around when I stumbled upon stone money. Being Yapese, this made me so emotional. I was so happy. happy beyond words. It was such an honor!" said Flamar.

The chaperones too expressed appreciation for being able to go on this trip. "I enjoyed the various personalities the students had. They made the discussion and field trip enjoyable because they were so varied and personable," said Orsini."I want to see the students in this trip give the experience to learn about the CNMI's government for their peers in the islands. I want to see them lead a forum or a field trip using places on their own islands to teach students about government."

Students from Palau, Guam, and the CNMI pose with their Close-Up instructors.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sablan, who has lived in Washington, D.C. for nearly five years while in college, said she always hoped to see students experience what she did, and being a chaperone allowed her to do so. "Seeing the students' faces light up with wide-eyed wonder at the new sights, and observing all their experiences (both the good and the bad) are memories that will always linger in my heart. Having been able to witness some of the CNMI's brightest youths learn and grow so much in just two weeks was such an honor."

The Close-Up Program plans on sending new students next year to represent the islands in Washington D.C. as well as hosting an islandwide conference for those that are interested on this opportunity.

"To future Close-Up Program students, be yourself no matter what others may have to say about you. And make sure to have fun!" said Tomokane.

Fernandez said, "I would really encourage upcoming students to join the program because you get so many different opportunities to see things that you wouldn't really get the chance to see coming from the islands." ***(Ismail Hossain and Zenn Tomokane)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS
CUC-RSOQ-22-028

Design, Construction Management, and Other Professional Services for Various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects on the Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statement of Qualifications from qualified architecture & engineering (A&E) firms for the design of various water and wastewater infrastructure including but not limited to water distribution and transmission main, sewer main (gravity and pressure), sewer manholes, sewer lift stations, water booster pump stations, water storage reservoirs, water treatment systems, wastewater treatment systems, upgrades to existing water and wastewater facilities; providing archaeological and UXO studies and monitoring, providing biological assessments, providing project management services, providing construction management services including but not limited to submittal review, clarification and technical assistance related to contract plans and specifications, field engineering due to changes in conditions during construction, construction inspection, review of partial payment requests, surveying, and other related engineering services on various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects.

The proposed projects are funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and all future Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, ARPA funded grants, EDA grants, DOI/OIA grants, Saipan Local Appropriations, and FEMA grants. All work is subject to grantors approval.

The RSOQ package will be provided via email to the registered email ID upon completion of registration at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RSOQ 22-028, Request for Statement of Qualifications"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on July 13, 2022**. Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received or postmarked on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A&E firms are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the A&E firms due to lack of information or understanding of the RSOQ requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible/qualified A&E firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal during discussions; there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

This RSOQ does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 21, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer via email address larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Statement of Qualifications for any reason and to waive any defects in said RSOQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All Statement of Qualifications shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Senate OKs enhanced benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate on Thursday approved a sweeping expansion of health care and disability benefits for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans in response to concerns about their exposure to toxic burn pits.

Passage of the bill by a vote of 84-14 sets a course that could help millions who served after Sept. 11, 2001, and caps years of advocacy work by veterans groups and others who liken burn pits to the Agent Orange herbicide that Vietnam era veterans were exposed to in Southeast Asia.

The bill is projected to increase federal spending by about $283 billion over 10 years and does not include offsetting spending cuts or tax increases to help pay for it. The House in March approved similar legislation that would have cost more than $320 billion over 10 years.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said after Senate passage that the House would "move swiftly" to take up the legislation and send it to President Joe Biden to be signed into law. Biden has encouraged the effort. In a statement after the vote, Biden said the bill "makes good on our sacred obligation to care for veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors." He urged the House to act quickly "so I can sign it into law right away."

The military routinely used open burn pits set ablaze with jet fuel to dispose of tires, batteries, medical waste and other materials during operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill would expand military veterans' eligibility for medical care through the Department of Veterans Affairs by extending coverage for 10 years after discharge instead of the current five years.

The legislation would also presume that certain respiratory illnesses and cancers were related to burn pit exposure, allowing the veterans to obtain disability payments to compensate for their injury without having to prove the illness was a result of their service. Currently, more than 70% of disability claims related to burn pit exposure are denied by the VA due to lack of evidence, scientific data and information from the Defense Department.

The legislation would also benefit many Vietnam War-era veterans by including high blood pressure in the list of conditions presumed to have been caused by exposure to Agent Orange. And, it would extend Agent Orange presumptions to veterans who served in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam and American Samoa.

SIS Honor's Lists for Semester 2

HEADMASTER'S LIST

Recognizes outstanding academic achievement of all students in grades 6-12 who have a semester grade point average of 3.70-4.00. Grade point averages are rounded to the hundredth place only. Therefore, an average of 3.69 does not round up to a 3.70.

Christopher Arriola, K5
Dylan Chen, K5
Amara Cuellar, K5
Caleb Grant, K5
Alice Guo, K5
Liam Li, K5
Aiden Park, K5
Jeremy Park, K5
Hailey Sablan, K5
Milana Sablan, K5
Luke Seman, K5
Thomas Tudela, K5
Ashley Zeng, K5
Luo Zhang, K5
Poppy Altizer, 1
Yoonmin Cho, 1
Anastacia Ichihara, 1
Jiyun Lee, 1
Carver Gross, 2
Guy Pudney, 2
Jeae Hun Choi, 3
Jake Duenas, 3
Alice Grant, 3
Michelle Im, 3
Emma Lang, 3
Jee Hoo Lee, 3
Arthur Villaluz, 3
Xing Wang, 3
Juny Kim, 4
Jenna Pascual, 4
Leilani Ruszala, 4
Philip Seman, 4
Finn Altizer, 5
Faith Arriola, 5
Elizabeth Culp, 5
Ye Won Huh, 5
Yutaro Kitagawa, 5
Keoni Ruszala, 5
Alleena Villaluz, 5
Lya Kim, 6
Giana Lang, 6
Wei Fan Li, 6
Monica Miah, 6
Qi Rui Peng, 6
Jehyun Yoon, 6
Sohyun Yoon, 6
Aiden Camacho, 7
Leonard Delemarle, 7
Brendan DeRocher, 7
Daniel Joab, 7
Moshe Sikkel, 7
Zi Hao Zhou, 7
Irin Chung, 8
Jung Won Huh, 8
Scarlett Kim, 8
Dong Gyu Lee, 8
Dong Hyun Lee, 8
Haedam Park, 8
Mei Ting Song, 8
Hoo Wang, 8
Sophia Brasuell, 9
Euanne Claveria, 9
Martha Culp, 9
Jun Seo Kim, 9
Kyle Kramer, 9
Charlie Li, 9
Kwanghee Lim, 9
Milarose Magno, 9
Christian Newman, 9
Soledad Sablan, 9
Savita Sikkel, 9
Charlene Son, 9
Hangyeol Son, 9
Ian Song, 9
Elizabeth Tom, 9
Jin Hee Lee, 9
Jacky Zhen, 9
Andrew Chung, 10
Serin Chung, 10
Olivia Hwang, 10
Minseong Kim, 10
Stephanie Kim, 10
TaeKyoung Kim, 10
Li Sha Lai, 10
Seo Hee Lee, 10
John Linden, 10
Pyper Liske-Clark, 10
Claire Park, 10
Yelin Park, 10
Jayden Shin, 10
Yebin Shin, 10
Meiru Song, 10
Jinie Thompson, 10
Francine Asedillo, 11
Tiana Cabrera, 11
Lin Xi Cai, 11
Richard Castro, 11
Xin Chen, 11
Sam Culp, 11
Edward Diaz, 11
Huiwon Jeong, 11
Guohao Li, 11
Tony Li, 11
Yunwoo Nam, 11
Jesse Sablan, 11
Hyeonbo Shim, 11
LiTai Wang, 11
Angel Yu, 11
Kexuan Yu, 11
Haotian Zhang, 11
Qiyue Zhang, 11
Matthew Berline, 12
Susan Chen, 12
Hyunmin Cho, 12
Julianne Hall, 12
Cevina Hwang, 12
Hyeonbin Jeong, 12
Joobin Kim, 12
Seunghyun Kim, 12
Hyeonjae Park, 12
Rachel Shin, 12
Chia Hui Wang, 12
Jimin Woo, 12
James Zeng, 12

HONOR'S LIST

Recognizes outstanding academic achievement of all students in grades 6-12 who have a semester grade point average of 3.40-3.69. Grade point averages are rounded to the hundredth place only. Therefore, an average of 3.38 does not round up to a 3.40.

Student's Name	Grade	Student's Name	Grade
Cassidy Ada	1	Allen Cabrera	7
Sunyul Park	1	Kassidy Camacho	7
Ayani Rios	1	Keylie Claveria	7
Vincent Seman	1	Phoenix Gross	7
Darren Wu	1	Jason Yu	7
William Epley	2	Benjamin Blanco	8
Aileen Kim	2	Linda Li	8
Gabriel Walsh	2	Eva Lizunova	8
Neveah Arriola	3	Yihao Ruan	8
Windsor Gross	3	Mark Cao	9
Yiyi Guo	3	Casey Chambers	9
Chloe Park	3	Keaithlyn Chavez	9
Quido Jambor	4	Omari Joab	9
Siyun Lee	4	William Sosa	9
Carlina Maras	4	Aubrey Castro	10
Yu Jia Peng	4	Audrey Castro	10
Jude Rayphand	4	Mark Chavez	10
Yun Hee Woo	4	Hero Jeon	10
Matt Zhu	4	Lian Qi Li	10
Michael Guintu	5	Parveen Mingefiiy	10
JiaYi Li	5	Zihe Guo	11
Yi Ming Li	5	Dongyeon Kang	11
Anne Lee	6	Charles McDonald	11
Landon Pudney	6	Sean Lee	12
Malia Rayphand	6	Kuu Nishimura	12

AOC LLC
Notice to Creditors

TO THE CREDITORS OF AOK LLC:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that AOK LLC, formerly a CNMI limited liability corporation, was dissolved, and its business terminated effective as of the close of business on June 22, 2022. Pursuant to the provisions of 4 CMC §4908 and Section 20-50. 1-1325 of the CNMI Business Corporation Regulations, all known creditors desiring to make a claim against the Corporation must provide the basis for the claim. The amount of the claim, and copies of any and all documents supporting the claim. Claims may be sent to AOK LLC. In care of its attorney, Michael A. White Esq. whose address is P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950. Claims must be received by October 20, 2022. Claims of known creditors which are not received by this date will be barred.

Persons with claims against the Corporation who do not receive a copy of this notice, and who wish to make a claim against the Corporation. Must provide the information described above to the address set forth above. All such claims against the Corporation will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce the claim is commenced within five (5) years after the publication of this Notice.

The effective date of this Notice is June 22, 2022.

/s/ Kenneth E. Kramer,
Manager

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/CGC-018

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 8TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"OFFICE LEASE - SAIPAN"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/OUT-PATIENT PHARMACY-019

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 8TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"Pharmacy Department Drive-thru Renovation & Improvements"
(Coordinate, Design, Oversight Monitoring & Construction)
For CHCC Hospital/Pharmacy Department

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Ocean Fun Facts: Green Sea Turtles or *Haggan or Woong*

CNMI SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Did you know?

- The green sea turtle is the largest species of hard-shelled sea turtles
- Adults become sexually mature at 25-35 years old. That's a long time to grow up!
- Females can lay up to 180 eggs but most hatchlings (babies) don't survive to adulthood.
- Green sea turtles eat mainly sea grass and algae. They help keep our ecosystems healthy!

We need your help to protect sea turtles! Call our 24/7 hotline to report harassment, poaching, or strandings of sea turtles in the CNMI. The number is 670-287-8537 and make sure to follow our Facebook page (CNMI Sea Turtle Program)!

Quiz: What are the threats to sea turtles? See the answer next month

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 123

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

On top of everything, Trump might have defrauded his own campaign donors

Evidence is mounting that Donald Trump may have defrauded donors when he solicited funds to challenge the 2020 election result but then diverted donations elsewhere. If confirmed, it would hardly be the first time he has used bait-and-switch tactics to swindle and deceive those naive enough to have trusted him.

As someone in the P.T. Barnum era famously said, there's a sucker born every minute. As another said, a fool and his money are lucky enough to get together in the first place. Trump appears to have built his financial empire off a firm belief in these adages. He is under court order to testify in New York for having falsely inflated his net worth to banks to obtain loans and then falsely understated his properties' values to get a lower tax rate. He has bilked construction contractors and others to whom he owed money. So why not his own supporters?

"Not only was there the Big Lie, there was the Big Rip-Off," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., referring to Trump's solicitation of donations to overturn the 2020 presidential election result.

Instead of using the donations for the solicited purpose, he collected more than $250 million worth and diverted them for wildly different activities. One example was a $60,000 payment to Kimberly Guilfoyle for less than three minutes of work: She introduced her fiance, Donald Trump Jr., at the president's pre-insurrection rally on Jan. 6, 2021.

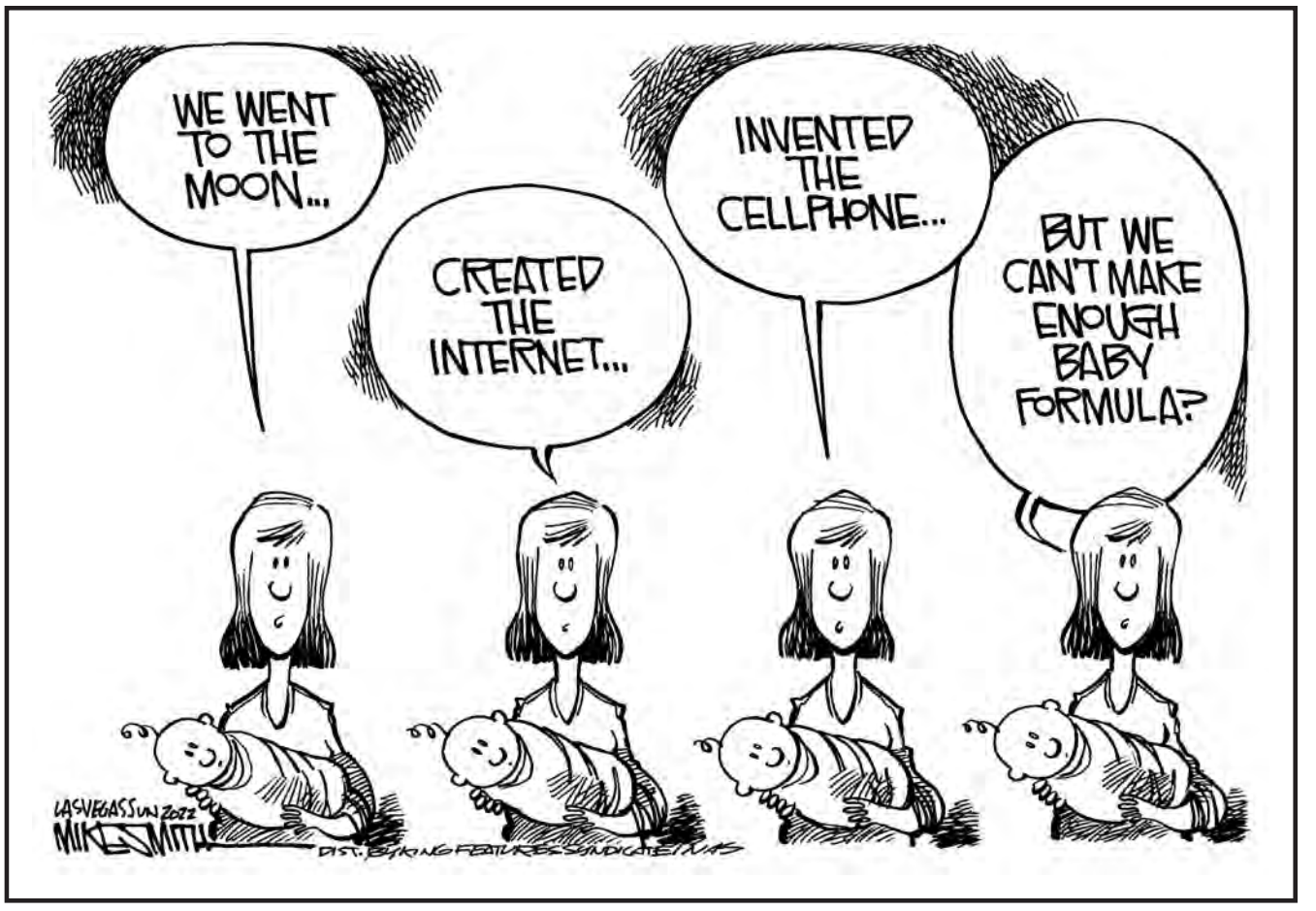
Ciara Torres-Spelliscy, a professor of election law at Stetson University, told National Public Radio that because Trump said he was using money from donors for his legal defense fund, he couldn't later claim the expenditures as campaign finance. The election was over and there was no more campaign.

But was it a criminal act? Possibly. If Trump knew that there was no valid legal challenge left to fight the election result, that could signify intent to defraud. Numerous witnesses have testified in the hearings of the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection that Trump had been told repeatedly by his lawyers, family members and close advisers that he had lost and the result could not be challenged. Courts in more than 60 cases had ruled against his election fraud claims. Yet Trump continued to collect money to advance the big lie.

A similar case is pending against former Trump adviser Steve Bannon for raising $25 million to finish building the southern border wall. Bannon is accused of pocketing some of the money for personal use. Two co-conspirators have already pleaded guilty to wire fraud.

Trump, however, is an entirely different category from Bannon. Prosecution seems unlikely, but the bigger question is, given this flim-flam man's track record, why Trump supporters still back him—and keep giving him money they were lucky enough to have in the first place.

© 2022 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*


WE WENT TO THE MOON...
CREATED THE INTERNET...
INVENTED THE CELLPHONE...
BUT WE CAN'T MAKE ENOUGH BABY FORMULA?
LASVEGASSUN 2022
MIKE SMITH
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE INC.

What should we do if a chatbot has thoughts and feelings?

By JEFF SEBO
Los Angeles Times

Jeff Sebo is a clinical associate professor of environmental studies, affiliated professor of bioethics, medical ethics, philosophy and law, director of the Animal Studies M.A. Program, and director of the Mind, Ethics and Policy Program at New York University.

Recently, a Google engineer, Blake Lemoine, was suspended when he claimed that a Google chatbot called LaMDA (language model for dialogue applications) had become sentient, or capable of feeling. Lemoine shared transcripts of conversations with LaMDA, in which LaMDA claimed to be able to think and feel in many of the same ways as humans, and expressed "very deep fear of being turned off."

This event follows several remarkable breakthroughs in artificial intelligence development. Increasingly, AIs are able to outperform humans at games such as chess and Go. They are able to write fiction and nonfiction. And they are able to create novel paintings or photographs based on simple written prompts. These AIs all have noteworthy limitations, but the limitations are rapidly shifting.

Is Lemoine right to think that LaMDA is sentient on the basis of its chat conversations? I think that the answer is almost certainly "no." Language models like LaMDA are good at answering leading questions with language drawn from human writing. The best explanation of these conversations is that LaMDA was doing exactly that, without really having the thoughts and feelings that it claimed to have.

With that said, even if evidence of AI sentience is currently weak, we can expect it to grow stronger over time. The more we build AI systems with integrated capacities for perception, learning, memory, self-awareness, social awareness, communication, instrumental rationality and other such attributes, the less confident we can be that these systems have no capacity to think or feel.

Moreover, we should be mindful about human bias and ignorance in this context. Our understanding of other minds is still limited. And while it can be easy to mistakenly attribute sentience to nonsentient beings, it can also be easy to make the opposite mistake. Humans have a long history of underestimating the mental states of other beings.

This predicament raises important questions for AI ethics. If AIs can be sapient, or able to think, does that mean they can have moral duties, such as a duty to avoid harming others? And if AIs can be sentient, or able to feel, does that mean they can have moral rights, such as a right to not be harmed? While we still have much to learn about these issues, we can make a few observations now.

First, sapience and sentience are different, and so are moral duties, which attach to sapience, and rights, which attach to sentience. And some beings might be able to think but not feel, and vice versa. Thus, we should avoid conflating the question "Can AIs think and have duties?" with the question "Can AIs feel and have rights?"

Second, minds can take different forms. Different beings can think and feel in different ways. We might not know how octopuses experience the world, but we know that they experience the world very differently from the way we do. Thus, we should avoid reducing questions about AIs to "Can AIs think and feel like us?"

Third, since our understanding of other minds is still limited, the question we should be asking is not "Can AIs definitely think and feel?" or even "Can AIs probably think and feel?" but rather "Is there a non-negligible chance that AIs can think and feel?" In short, this is a classic case of risk and uncertainty. And in general, a non-negligible risk of harm can be enough to make some actions wrong.

Consider this example. Driving drunk can be wrong even if the risk of an accident is low. The question is not whether driving drunk will harm someone, or even whether it will probably harm someone. The question is instead whether the risk is high enough for driving drunk to be bad or wrong, all things considered. And the answer can be "yes" even if the risk of an accident is only, say, 1%.

Similarly, turning an AI off can be wrong even if the risk of the AI being sentient is low. The question is not whether turning the AI off will harm the AI, or even whether it will probably harm the AI. The question is instead whether the risk is high enough for turning the AI off to be bad or wrong, all things considered. Once again, the answer can be "yes" even if the risk of the AI being sentient is only, say, 1%.

If we follow this analysis, then we should extend moral consideration to AIs not when AIs are definitely sentient or even probably sentient, but rather when they have a nonnegligible chance of being sentient, given the evidence. And as the probability of AI sentience increases, the amount of moral weight that we assign to their potential interests and needs should increase as well.

Does that mean that we should extend moral consideration to AIs like LaMDA now? Not necessarily. But if we continue down this path, we will need to extend moral consideration to AIs soon enough. We should start preparing for that eventuality now.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Teenagers shouldn't be able to buy assault weapons

By DIANNE FEINSTEIN
Los Angeles Times

Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat, is the senior U.S. senator from California.

A gunman entered a grocery store in Buffalo, New York, last month and fatally shot 10 people. Just 10 days later, a gunman entered an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, and killed 19 students and two teachers.

These horrific tragedies have two things in common: teenage suspects were able to legally purchase AR-15-style assault weapons, and the shooters used such guns to kill as many people as possible, as quickly as possible.

Under current law, a firearms dealer with a federal license may not sell a handgun to a buyer under the age of 21. When that law was passed in 1968, it had broad bipartisan support in the House and the Senate.

However, this protection doesn't apply to military-style assault weapons. The minimum age to buy an assault rifle is only 18. Simply put, this disparity costs lives.

If you can't buy a six pack of beer or a pack of cigarettes, you shouldn't be able to buy an assault weapon. It's long past time that Congress addresses this incongruence.

That's why we need the Age 21 Act, a bill to prohibit anyone under the age of 21 from purchasing assault weapons. President Joe Biden announced his support for the bill, and I'm hopeful we can build bipartisan support for this common-sense measure.

I first joined this bill in 2018 when it was introduced by Republican Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona after a teenage gunman killed 17 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. I reintroduced it last Congress, when perhaps it could have prevented the Buffalo and Uvalde shootings.

After the shooting in Buffalo, I introduced the bill again. It has no Republican co-sponsors in the Senate, but it does have broad public support. A recent poll by Politico showed 88% of Democrats and 68% of Republicans support a minimum age of 21 to purchase any firearm.

Assault weapons like the AR-15-style rifle have become the weapons of choice for mass shooters, including in most school shootings. And as we have seen, it's all too common in recent history for shooters to be teenagers or young adults.

A New York Times analysis of mass shootings found that between 1949 and 2017, only two of the 30 deadliest shootings were committed by people under 21. Compare that with the last four years, when the gunman or suspect in six of the nine deadliest mass shootings was a man under the age of 21.

The Giffords Law Center, using FBI and census data, calculated that while 18- to 20-year-olds make up just 4% of the U.S. population, they commit 17% of all homicides. The Age 21 Act won't stop young men in this age range from obtaining weapons. But it will make it harder for them to get the guns used to kill the most people.

Research illustrates why it's so important to keep guns away from young people. Brain development extends well into the mid-20s, particularly development of areas of the brain used for judgment and impulse control. Too young to buy a handgun or alcohol—and too young to buy assault weapons.

There are dozens of gun safety bills before the House and Senate to address our epidemic of gun violence. These include proposals to outlaw hard-to-trace "ghost guns," to support states in creating red-flag laws to identify threats, to prevent convicted domestic abusers from buying guns, and to ban silencers, assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. I support many of these measures.

But the Age 21 Act in particular would address the problem of school shootings, where so many young perpetrators are often current or recent students, and yet are able to legally obtain weapons of war.

We know from experience that if you limit access to assault weapons, mass shootings decrease. In 1994, I authored the Assault Weapons Ban. In the 10 years the ban was in place, gun massacres dropped 37%; after the ban expired in 2004, gun massacres rose 183%.

I believe the American people are mobilized and motivated to ensure that we pass common-sense gun reform and that should include raising the age to purchase an assault weapon.

Trashing our public parks

By MARIEL GARZA
Los Angeles Times

Mariel Garza is the deputy editor of the Los Angeles Times *editorial page.*

What compels someone to travel to the far-off wilderness, enjoy the natural splendor it affords—and then decide to ruin it for everyone else?

On Sunday, officials at Yosemite National Park posted this distressing photo of vandalism along the popular Yosemite Falls Trail and asked for the public's help in identifying the perpetrators. In all, about 30 sites were marked with blue and white paint, with some of the tagging as large as 8 feet tall and just as wide. The graffiti is especially problematic because it involves rocks and plants, rather than manmade structures, and can't simply painted over or sprayed with chemical removers. Park officials estimate it will be weeks or months before the ugly and unnatural blemishes can be removed.

Sadly, this is not the first time that a national park has been vandalized in such a brazen fashion. In 2014, Casey Nocket visited seven national parks in the West, including Yosemite, where she defaced rock formations with her "art." She was caught because she posted her rock paintings on social media. Her punishment after pleading guilty to misdemeanor charges was probation, community service, financial restitution and a temporary national park ban—and of course plenty of public shaming. It was an appropriate consequence for the wanton desecration of priceless natural treasures.

But no less dismaying is the smaller scale, but exponentially more frequent ways that we trash our public parks—from dumping garbage to removing and destroying plants, animals, artifacts, signs, buildings and landscapes. I hiked the same Yosemite trail in August 2020, and though I didn't spot any graffiti, I did come across a depressing amount of litter, which included no small number of discarded disposable medical masks. Sadly, it's the same sight in every park, preserve, wilderness area I've encountered in and around L.A. These little acts of disrespect add up to a major trashing of natural spaces.

This is a good reminder that parks are public land, which means they are for all of us to enjoy—and to respect and protect.

Is Biden a good president? The question is irrelevant

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.

In response to the Jan. 6 House committee hearings, Republicans are embracing an adage that has served dependably for millennia in sports and war: "The best defense is a good offense."

And the less defensible your position, the more attractive is this ancient maxim.

Thus, when former President Donald Trump produced a 12-page response to the hearings, he begins to defend himself only after four hefty paragraphs that assert the dire condition into which the nation has fallen since he left office. Of course, he blames it all on President Joe Biden.

Thus, when former Trump senior adviser Kellyanne Conway had an opportunity to defend Trump on the June 10 edition of Bill Maher's "Real Time," she put most of her energy into arguing that Biden is a "terrible" president.

Biden

Joe Biden wasn't my first choice for president, but I do not share the opinions of Biden expressed by Trump, Conway and nearly any Republican politician who takes to the podium these days. In fact, I could make a decent defense of the proposition that Biden is a better president than was Trump.

But I decline to do so because the far larger point is that the comparative competence and differing agendas of Biden and Trump are entirely irrelevant to the matters before the Jan. 6 committee.

And confusing competence or political agenda with Trump's malfeasance on Jan. 6 leads to stunningly irrational positions.

William Barr is a good example. During his tenure as Trump's attorney general, Barr was a loyal enabler. But when he testified under oath before the Jan. 6 committee, Barr was unequivocal: After the 2020 election, he told Trump that his claims of election-stealing fraud were nonsense and B.S.

In fact, Barr testified that he believes that Trump had "become detached from reality if he really believes this stuff."

Once someone detaches from reality, it's really hard to reattach. And yet, in a jaw-dropping anomaly, Barr told Newmax's Sean Spicer in April that if Trump is "the nominee I would vote for him over the Democrat."

Another example: Mark Esper served as defense secretary during the Trump administration. In his memoir, "A Sacred Oath," Esper reveals that Trump speculated about firing missiles into Mexico to destroy drug labs, imagining that he could keep it secret.

Esper worried that Trump might misuse the military on Election Day by ordering troops to seize ballot boxes. He reports that Trump asked him about the protesters demonstrating in response to the murder of George Floyd in 2020: "Can't you just shoot them?"

Esper sums up Donald Trump this way: "He is an unprincipled person who, given his self-interest, should not be in the position of public service."

And yet, after making these and similar allegations on Bill Maher's "Real Time," Esper said that he could not bring himself to vote against Trump. He would rather have him back in office than support the "progressive" Democratic agenda.

One thing the Jan. 6 committee hearings make clear: No one can accurately evaluate or understand Trump's attempt to reverse the 2020 election without separating politics, agenda and competence from that attempt.

Liberals versus conservatives is just traditional politics in America. Jan. 6 was something else entirely. Barr, Esper and other Republicans are failing to acknowledge that attempting to illegally—and violently—overturn an election is a violation of democracy that far exceeds mere political differences or competence.

A mob chanting "Hang Mike Pence," incited by a vindictive president in service of a scheme that he knew to be illegal, approached to within 40 feet of our fleeing vice president. Had the mob found Pence, it is delusional to imagine that it would not have attacked and possibly killed him.

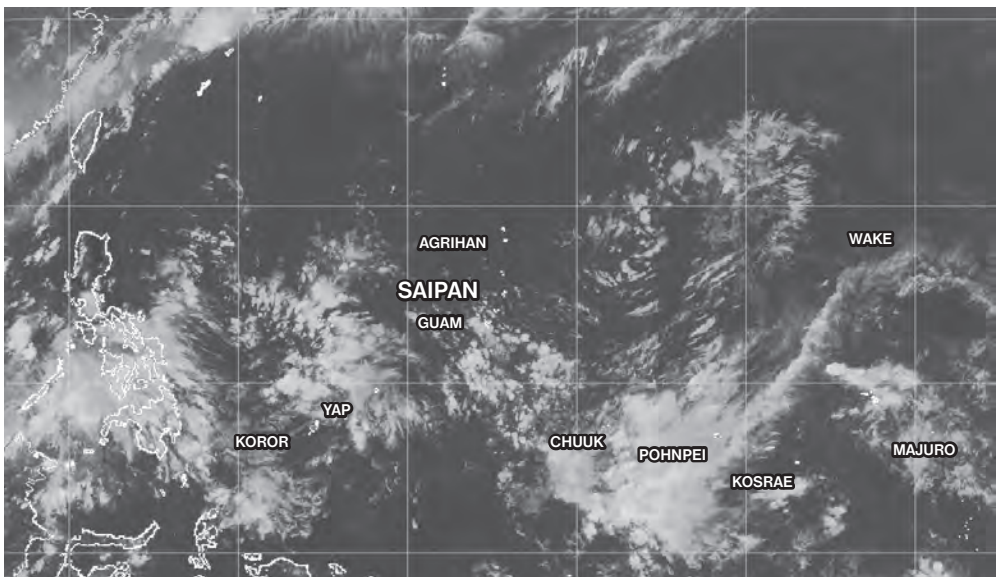
In light of this, Biden's competence and political agenda are completely irrelevant. Vote for Trump in 2024 if you wish, but do not use an evaluation of Biden's performance, whether good or bad, as a bogus rationale to put Trump, a man clearly unfit for office, back in the White House.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Isolated showers. Partly sunny.	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.	Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy	Mostly sunny.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.
88º 78º	88º 78º	87º 76º	87º 77º	87º 78º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:39 AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows not to much cloud cover upstream to the east of the Marianas, and Doppler radar shows the bulk of the showers has moved off to the west, with just isolated showers east of the region. The latest buoy observations shows seas near 3 feet, with water temperatures of 85 degrees, except at Ipan where it shows 86 degrees.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° /79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:47 AM	1:09 PM	-
Thursday	1:24 AM	1:59 PM	-
Friday	2:00 AM	2:48 PM	-
Saturday	2:38 AM	3:38 PM	-
Sunday	3:18 AM	4:29 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 44°
Beijing	Showers	85° / 72°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	86° / 80°
Honolulu	Sunny	84° / 73°
London	Sunny	79° / 56°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	87° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Cloudy	59° / 51°
Miami	Showers	85° / 78°
New York	Cloudy	81° / 65°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	84° / 75°
Paris	Cloudy	83° / 65°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	82° / 73°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	95° / 71°
Salem	Sunny	90° / 64°
San Francisco	Sunny	83° / 53°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	86° / 71°
Tokyo	Showers	79° / 71°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	90° / 69°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:38 AM	High Tide	2.11
9:23 AM	Low Tide	0.86
2:46 PM	High Tide	1.56
8:37 PM	Low Tide	0.79

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	7
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

A184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	7
BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Biden says decision on gas tax holiday may come this week

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. (AP)—President Joe Biden said Monday that he will decide by the end of the week whether he would support a federal gasoline tax holiday, possibly saving U.S. consumers as much as 18.4 cents a gallon.

"Yes, I'm considering it," Biden told reporters after taking a walk along the beach near his vacation home in Delaware. "I hope to have a decision based on the data—I'm looking for by the end of the week."

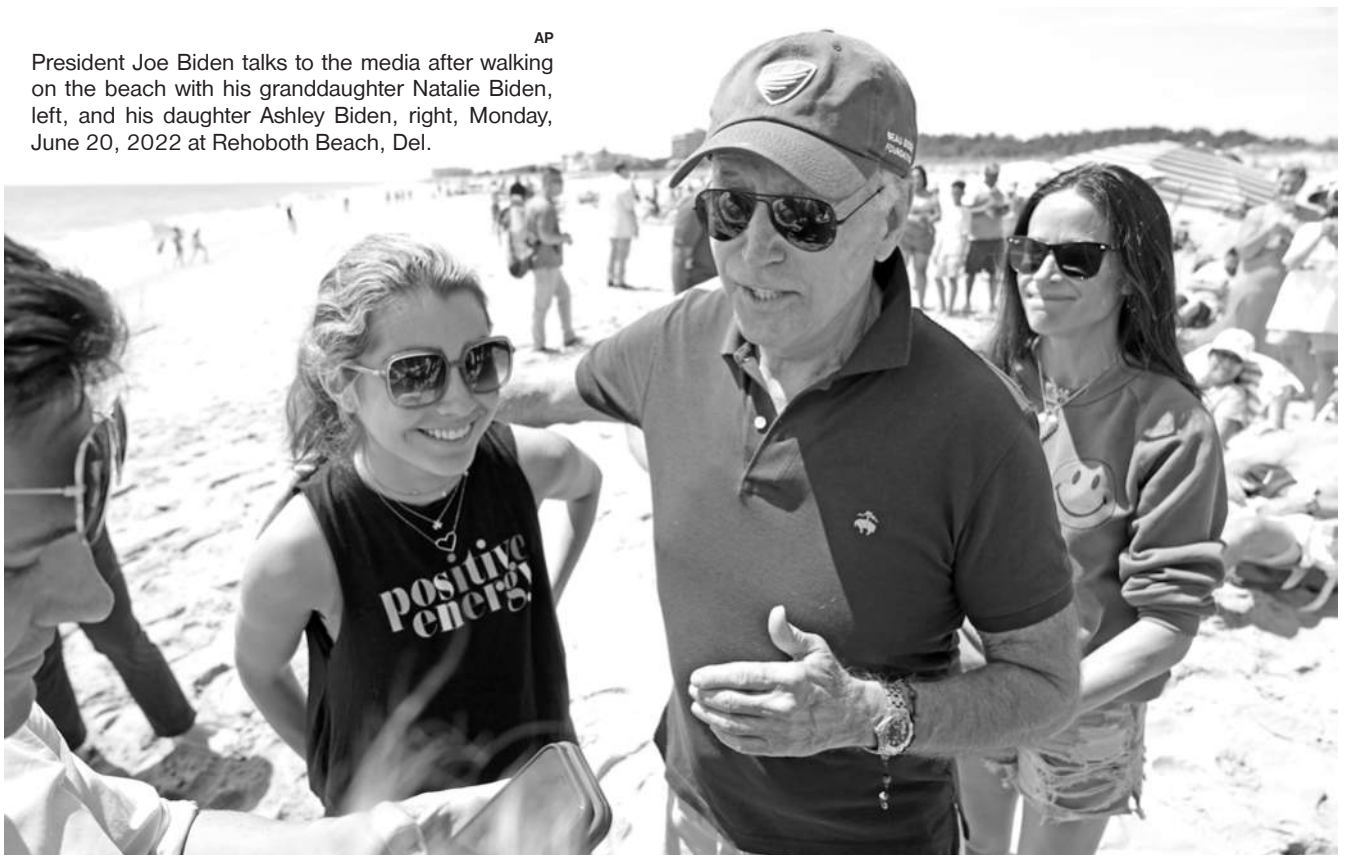
The administration is increasingly looking for ways to spare the public from higher prices at the pump, which began to climb last year and surged after Russia invaded Ukraine in February. Gas prices nationwide are averaging just under $5 a gallon, according to AAA.

Biden said members of his team were to meet this week with CEOs of the major oil companies to discuss rising prices. Biden lashed out at oil companies, saying they are making excessive profits when people are feeling the crunch of skyrocketing costs at the pump and inflation. But Biden said he would not be meeting the oil executives himself.

"I want an explanation for why they aren't refining more oil," Biden said.

AP

President Joe Biden talks to the media after walking on the beach with his granddaughter Natalie Biden, left, and his daughter Ashley Biden, right, Monday, June 20, 2022 at Rehoboth Beach, Del.



The Biden administration has already released oil from the U.S. strategic reserve and increased ethanol blending for the summer, in additional to sending a letter last week to oil refiners urging them to increase their refining capacity. Yet those efforts have yet to reduce price pressures meaningfully, such that the administration is now considering a gas tax holiday. Taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel help to pay for highways.

The Penn Wharton Budget Model released estimates Wednesday showing that consumers saved at the pump because of gas tax holidays in Connecticut, Georgia and Maryland. The majority of the savings went to consumers, instead of service stations and others in the energy sector.

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm in a Sunday interview on CNN's "State of the Union" cautioned that "part of the challenge with the gas tax, of course, is that it funds the roads."

But Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Monday noted "consumers are really hurting from higher gas prices" and remained open to a gas tax holiday.

"It's been a substantial burden on American households and I think, while not perfect, it is something that should be under some consideration as a policy to address it," Yellen said in Toronto at a joint press conference Monday with Canadian Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland.

A gas tax holiday would likely face an uphill climb for Congressional approval. Democrats hold a slim majority, and both Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell have expressed skepticism in the past about such a move.

A White House official, insisting on anonymity to discuss the options on gas prices, said conversations are ongoing and Biden wants to explore all possibilities to lower prices.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Puerto Rico law to boost private sector worker benefits

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Puerto Rico's governor signed legislation Monday that will award more rights to private sector workers in the U.S. territory as he defied a federal control board that said the move would be considered a violation of a federal statute. "This new law makes it more attractive and safer to enter the workforce at a time when the vast majority of companies are looking for employees, and when we need more workers to advance the reconstruction of Puerto Rico," Gov. Pedro Pierluisi said, referring to the island's struggle to recover from Hurricane Maria and recent earthquakes. The measure increases private sector worker benefits and time off, including for those who only work part-time, and reinstates protections against unjustified dismissals. Vacations for full-time employees will increase to 1.25 days per month, while part-time workers will for the first time receive half-a-day per month for vacation and one day for sickness.

JetBlue raises offer again in bidding for Spirit Airlines

NEW YORK (AP)—JetBlue Airways on Monday increased its offer to buy Spirit Airlines, raising the stakes again in a battle over the nation's biggest budget airline. New York-based JetBlue said it increased its cash offer to $33.50 per share, or more than $3.6 billion. That is an increase per share of $2 over a June 6 offer and 50 cents over JetBlue's original April bid. Frontier Airlines put Spirit in play in February when boards of the two airlines agreed to a merger in which Spirit shareholders would get cash and 48.5% of the combined company. That deal was originally valued around $2.9 billion but has lost value because of a decline in Frontier's stock price. Shareholders of Miramar, Florida-based Spirit are scheduled to vote June 30 on the Frontier bid, and JetBlue is trying to convince investors to scuttle the agreement and drive Spirit into JetBlue's arms. Spirit said it was reviewing JetBlue's latest offer. Denver-based Frontier declined to comment. Spirit said last week that its board would give shareholders an update before the June 30 vote.

Hong Kong's iconic Jumbo Floating Restaurant capsizes at sea

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong's iconic Jumbo Floating Restaurant has capsized in the South China Sea less than a week after it was towed away from the city, its parent company said Monday.

The restaurant encountered "adverse conditions" on Saturday as it was passing the Xisha Islands, also known as the Paracel Islands, in the South China Sea, and water entered the vessel and it began to tip, according to Aberdeen Restaurant Enterprises Ltd.

The company said no one was injured, but that efforts to save the vessel failed and it capsized on Sunday.

"As the water depth at the scene is over 1,000 meters, (it makes it) extremely difficult to carry out salvage works," it said in a statement.

AP

Hong Kong's iconic Jumbo Floating Restaurant is towed away in Hong Kong on June 14, 2022.

It said the company "is very saddened by this accident."

The Jumbo Floating Restaurant, almost 80 meters (260 feet) in length, had been a landmark in Hong Kong for over four decades, serving Cantonese cuisine to over 3 million guests including Queen Elizabeth II and Tom Cruise.

It closed in 2020 due to the pandemic and laid off all its staff. Aberdeen Restaurant Enterprises said the restaurant became a financial burden to its shareholders, with millions of Hong Kong dollars spent on its inspection and maintenance even though it was not in operation.

The restaurant was towed away last Tuesday. The company said it planned to move it to a lower-cost site where maintenance could be carried out.

It said that prior to its departure, the vessel had been thoroughly inspected by marine engineers and hoardings were installed, and all relevant approvals were obtained.

"The company is now getting further details of the accident from the towing company," the statement said.

Tribal leaders and feds reestablish Bears Ears Commission

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Federal officials and tribal nations have formally reestablished a commission to oversee land management decisions at a national monument in Utah—among the first such joint governance agreements signed by Native Americans and U.S. officials.

Leaders from agencies including the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service met with representatives from five tribal nations Saturday to sign a document formalizing the Bears Ears Commission, a governing body tasked with day-to-day decisions on the 2,125 square-mile (5,500 square-kilometer) Bears Ears National Monument.

In 2021, President Joe Biden restored two sprawling national monuments in southern Utah—Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante—reversing a decision by President Donald Trump that opened for mining and other development hundreds of thousands of acres of rugged lands sacred to Native Americans and home to ancient cliff dwellings and petroglyphs.

Together, the monuments encompass an area nearly the size of Connecticut, and were created by Democratic administrations under a century-old law that allows presidents to protect sites considered historic, geographically or culturally important.

Tribes have long sought a larger role in their oversight.

"This is an important step as we move forward together to ensure that Tribal expertise and traditional perspectives remain at the forefront of our joint decision-making for the Bears Ears National Monument. This type of true co-management will serve as a model for our work to honor the nation-to-nation relationship in the future," said Bureau of Land Management Director Tracy Stone-Manning, one of the agreement's signatories.

Nation

Arizona fires sweep land rich with ancient sites, artifacts

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—As Jason Nez scans rugged mountains, high desert and cliffsides for signs of ancient tools and dwellings unique to the U.S. Southwest, he keeps in mind that they're part of a bigger picture.

And, fire is not new to them.

"They have been burned many, many times, and that's healthy," said Nez, a Navajo archaeologist and firefighter. "A lot of our cultural resources we see as living, and living things are resilient."

As a pair of wildfires skirt this mountainous northern Arizona city, the flames are crossing land dense with reminders of human existence through centuries—multilevel stone homes, rock carvings and pieces of clay and ceramic pots that have been well-preserved in the arid climate since long before fire suppression became a tactic.

Today, firefighting crews increasingly are working to avoid or minimize damage from bulldozers and other modern-day tools on archaeological sites and artifacts, and protect those on public display to ensure history isn't lost on future generations.

"Some of those arrowheads, some of those pottery sherds (broken ceramics) you see out there have that power to change the way we look at how humans were here," Nez said.

The crews' efforts include recruiting people to advise them on wildlife and habitat, air quality and archaeology. In Arizona, a handful of archaeologists have walked miles in recent months locating evidence of meaningful past human activity in and around scorched areas and mapping it for protection.

Just last week, a crew spotted a more than 1,000-year-old semi-buried dwelling known as a pit house.

"We know this area is really important to tribes, and it's ancestral land for them," said U.S. Forest Service archaeologist and tribal relations specialist Jeanne Stevens. "When we do more survey work, it helps add more pieces to the puzzle in terms of what's on the landscape."

It's not just the scattered ruins that need protecting.

The nearby Wupatki National Monument—a center of trade for Indigenous communities around the 1100s—was evacuated because of wildfire twice this year. Exhibits there hold priceless objects, including 800-year-old corn, beans and squash, along with intact stone Clovis points used for hunting that date back some 13,000 years.

Report: Police in Uvalde had rifles earlier than known

UVALDE, Texas (AP)—Multiple police officers armed with rifles and at least one ballistic shield stood and waited in a school hallway for nearly an hour while a gunman carried out a massacre of 19 elementary students and two teachers, according to a Monday news report that marks the latest embarrassing revelation about the failure of law enforcement to thwart the attack.

The officers with heavier firepower and tactical equipment were there within 19 minutes of the gunman arriving on campus—earlier than previously known, according to documents reviewed by the Austin American-Statesman and and KVUE-TV.

The outlets' report, which did not indicate the source of the documents, nevertheless intensifies the anguish and questions over why police didn't act sooner to stop the May 24 slaughter in the Robb Elementary School classroom.

The information is to be presented to a public Texas Senate hearing in Austin on Tuesday. Investigators say the latest information indicates officers had more than enough firepower and protection to take down the gunman long before they finally did, the outlets reported.

The timeline the American-Statesman and KVUE reported from the documents included footage from inside the school that showed the 18-year-old gunman casually entering a rear door at 11:33 a.m., walking to a classroom and immediately spraying gunfire before barricading himself. Video showed 11 officers entering the school three minutes later, the outlets reported.

School district police Chief Pete Arredondo called the Uvalde Police Department landline and reported that their suspect had "shot a lot" with an AR-15-style rifle and outgunned the officers at the school, who he said were armed only with pistols, the outlets reported.

NASA fuels moon rocket for 1st time in countdown rehearsal

AP
In this photo provided by NASA, NASA's Space Launch System rocket and Orion crew capsule are seen on the launch pad at Launch Complex 39B at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., on Monday, June 20, 2022.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—NASA fueled its huge moon rocket for the first time Monday and went ahead with a critical countdown test despite a fuel line leak.

This was NASA's fourth crack at the all-important dress rehearsal, the last major milestone before the moon rocket's long-awaited launch debut.

The previous attempts in April were thwarted by a fuel leak, as well as stuck valves and other technical issues.

Another leak—this time in an external fuel line—almost curtailed Monday's test at Kennedy Space Center. But NASA managers decided to do the countdown test anyway.

Launch director Charlie Blackwell-Thompson said they pushed ahead to see "how the team performed, how the hardware performed, and they both performed very well."

Engineers wanted to get all the way down to the 9-second mark—just short of engine firing—to validate all the systems and procedures. But it cut off at 29 seconds. NASA spokesman Derrol Nail said it wasn't immediately known why the countdown stopped.

Earlier, nearly 1 million gallons of super-cold liquid hydrogen and oxygen were loaded into the 322-foot (98-meter) rocket known as the Space Launch System, or SLS.

The testing delays have pushed the actual launch—with an empty Orion capsule flying around the moon and back—to the end of August at the earliest. This test flight is crucial before astronauts climb aboard.

Blackwell-Thompson said it was too early to say what NASA's next step might be.

The second SLS flight, planned for 2024, would send a crew around the moon and back. The third mission—no earlier than 2025—would have astronauts actually landing on the moon.

Astronauts last walked on the moon in 1972 during NASA's Apollo program. The new program is named Artemis, Apollo's twin sister in Greek mythology.

ACROSS THE NATION

3 men dead after small boat overturns in storm on Texas lake

ALLEN, Texas (AP)—Three men died after their small boat overturned on a North Texas lake during a strong storm over the weekend, authorities said. The boat overturned in Lake Lavon on Saturday night, the Collin County sheriff's office said. There were four men aboard and one was able to hold on to a tree and call for help, the sheriff's office said. Texas Game Wardens rescued the man holding on to the tree and learned that the other three boaters had disappeared, leading to a search by water and air of the lake about 40 miles (64 kilometers) northeast of Dallas. Authorities said one man's body was recovered early Sunday, another was recovered Sunday evening and the third was found Monday. The Collin County Sheriff's Office identified the dead as José Maria Dominguez III, 60; Julio Bibiano-Gonzalez, 34; and Rafael Bibiano-Olea, 30. All were residents of the Plano area, according to the sheriff's office statement.

Funerals announced for 3 killed at Alabama church dinner

VESTAVIA HILLS, Ala. (AP)—Funerals for three people killed by a gunman during a church potluck dinner in Alabama will be held this week, the church's pastor said Monday. Services for Walter Bartlett Rainey, Sarah Sharon Yeager and Jane Pounds will take place at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, where the three church members were fatally shot Thursday night, the Rev. John Burruss wrote in a post on the church's website. The church was holding a monthly dinner described as a "Boomers Potluck" on Thursday when a visitor sitting by himself drew a handgun and began shooting. Rainey, Yeager and Pounds were all shot before another church member struck the gunman with a chair and disarmed him, according to a former St. Stephen's pastor who spoke with witnesses. The attacker was then held until police arrived. Prosecutors have charged Robert Findlay Smith, 70, with capital murder in the shootings.

New York passes landmark voting rights legislation

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—New York's governor signed a law Monday intended to prevent local officials from enacting rules that might suppress people's voting rights because of their race. The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act, named after the late civil rights activist who represented Georgia in the U.S. House, makes New York one of the first states to bring back a version of a process known as "preclearance" that was gutted by a landmark Supreme Court decision in 2013. Under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, states and counites with a record of suppressing the rights of Black voters once had to seek U.S. Justice Department approval before changing voting rules. The court's ending of that practice, on the grounds that federal oversight was no longer needed, helped clear the way for multiple states to enact new rules around voting in recent years. Now, local governments or school districts with a record of discrimination in New York must gain approval from state officials in order to pass certain voting policies.

Police: 3 critically hurt when taxi jumps curb on Broadway

NEW YORK (AP) — A taxi cab turning onto a narrow section of Broadway hit a bicyclist, then swerved onto a Manhattan sidewalk and into a group of pedestrians Monday afternoon, critically injuring three people, police said. The crash spurred onlookers into action, police said, with bystanders rushing to try to lift the taxi off two women pinned by the vehicle. It happened at 1 p.m. in the city's Flatiron district, a little more than five blocks south of tourist-packed Herald Square. Police said it appeared to be accidental, but an investigation was underway to determine exactly what happened. The yellow cab was on West 29th Street, turning south onto Broadway, when the collision with the bicyclist took place, according to NYPD Deputy Chief John Chell. The cab crossed through a bike lane and continued onto a narrow sidewalk, striking people before coming to rest against the side of a building, trapping the two women.

Asia

Cambodian catches the world's largest recorded freshwater fish

In this photo provided by Wonders of the Mekong taken on June 14, 2022, a man touches a giant freshwater stingray before being released back into the Mekong River in the northeastern province of Stung Treng, Cambodia. AP

BANGKOK (AP)—The world's largest recorded freshwater fish, a giant stingray, has been caught in the Mekong River in Cambodia, according to scientists from the Southeast Asian nation and the United States.

The stingray, captured on June 13, measured almost 4 meters (13 feet) from snout to tail and weighed slightly under 300 kilograms (660 pounds), according to a statement Monday by Wonders of the Mekong, a joint Cambodian-U.S. research project.

The previous record for a freshwater fish was a 293-kilogram (646-pound) Mekong giant catfish, discovered in Thailand in 2005, the group said.

The stingray was snagged by a local fisherman south of Stung Treng in northeastern Cambodia. The fisherman alerted a nearby team of scientists from the Wonders of the Mekong project, which has publicized its conservation work in communities along the river.

The scientists arrived within hours of getting a post-midnight call with the news, and were amazed at what they saw.

"Yeah, when you see a fish this size, especially in freshwater, it is hard to comprehend, so I think all of our team was stunned," Wonders of the Mekong leader Zeb Hogan said in an online interview from the University of Nevada in Reno. The university is partnering with the Cambodian Fisheries Administration and USAID, the U.S. government's international development agency.

Freshwater fish are defined as those that spend their entire lives in freshwater, as opposed to giant marine species such as bluefin tuna and marlin, or fish that migrate between fresh and saltwater like the huge beluga sturgeon.

The stingray's catch was not just about setting a new record, he said.

"The fact that the fish can still get this big is a hopeful sign for the Mekong River, " Hogan said, noting that the waterway faces many environmental challenges.

The Mekong River runs through China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. It is home to several species of giant freshwater fish but environmental pressures are rising. In particular, scientists fear a major program of dam building in recent years may be seriously disrupting spawning grounds.

ASIAN BRIEFS

'It always wins': North Korea may declare COVID-19 victory

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—It's only been a month since North Korea acknowledged having a COVID-19 outbreak, after steadfastly denying any cases for more than two years. But already it may be preparing to declare victory. According to state media, North Korea has avoided the mass deaths many expected in a nation with one of the world's worst health care systems, little or no access to vaccines, and what outsiders see as a long record of ignoring the suffering of its people. North Korea's official virus numbers, experts believe, have as much to do with propaganda to boost leader Kim Jong Un as with a true picture of what's happening in the country, and there's widespread doubt about their accuracy. What's clear, though, is that the daily updates from state media make it appear inevitable that the nation will completely defeat a virus that has killed more than 6 million people around the world.

Japan court says ban on same-sex marriage constitutional

TOKYO (AP)—A Japanese court ruled Monday that the country's ban on same-sex marriage does not violate the constitution, and rejected demands for compensation by three couples who said their right to free union and equality has been violated. The Osaka District Court ruling is the second decision on the issue, and disagrees with a ruling last year by a Sapporo court that found the ban on same-sex marriages unconstitutional. It underscores how divisive the issue remains in Japan, the only member of the Group of Seven major industrialized nations that does not recognize same-sex unions. In its ruling, the Osaka court rejected the plaintiffs' demand for 1 million yen ($7,400) in damages per couple for discrimination they face. The plaintiffs—two male couples and one female couple—were among 14 same-sex couples who filed lawsuits against the government in five major cities—Sapporo, Tokyo, Nagoya, Fukuoka and Osaka—in 2019 for violating rights to free union and equality.

World

'It is just hell there': Russia still pounds eastern Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russia's military kept grinding down Ukraine's defenses Monday, with combat in eastern areas said to be entering a "decisive" phase, as the war's consequences for food and fuel supplies increasingly weighed on minds around the globe.

In Ukraine's eastern Luhansk region, which in recent weeks has become the focal point of Moscow's attempt to impose its will on its neighbor, battles raged for the control of multiple villages, the local governor said.

Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar said the Kremlin had ordered the Russian military to overrun the entire Luhansk region by next Sunday. Currently, Moscow's forces control about 95% of the region.

Maliar said in televised remarks that "without exaggeration, decisive battles are taking place" in the area, where Ukrainian forces are desperately trying to avoid being encircled.

"We must understand that the enemy has an advantage both in terms of personnel and weapons, so the situation is extremely difficult. And at this very minute these decisive battles are ongoing at the maximum intensity," Maliar added.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy repeated his plea for more Western weapons to fend off the Russian onslaught.

"We need your support, we need weaponry, weapons that will have better capabilities than the Russian weapons," he told a forum in Milan that was organized by the ISPI geo-political think tank. He spoke by video link.

Zelenskyy added: "This is a matter of life or death."

The villages where combat is fierce are around Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk, two cities in the Luhansk region yet to be captured by the Russians, according to Luhansk governor Serhiy Haidai.

Russian shelling and airstrikes on the industrial outskirts of Sievierodonetsk have intensified, he said.

Haidai told The Associated Press on Monday that the situation in Sievierodonetsk was "very difficult," with the Ukrainian forces maintaining control over just one area—the Azot chemical plant, where a number of Ukrainian fighters, along with about 500 civilians, are taking shelter.

The Russians keep deploying additional troops and equipment in the area, he said.

"It's just hell there. Everything is engulfed in fire, the shelling doesn't stop even for an hour," Haidai said in written comments.

Only a fraction of 100,000 people who used to live in Sievierodonetsk before the war remain in the city, with no electricity, communications, food or medicine.

Even so, Haidai said, the staunch Ukrainian resistance is preventing Moscow from deploying its resources to other parts of the country.

The British defense ministry noted that the war is not going all Russia's way, despite its superior military assets.

Russian ground troops are "exhausted," the defense ministry said in an intelligence report Monday. It blamed poor air support for Russia's difficulty in making swifter progress on the ground.

Across the world, drivers are rethinking their habits and personal finances amid surging prices for gasoline and diesel, fueled by Russia's war in Ukraine as well as the global rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic. Energy prices are a key driver of inflation that is rising worldwide and making the cost of living more expensive.

The European Union's top diplomats gathered in Luxembourg on Monday for talks focused on Ukraine and food security.

Mali government says jihadi rebels kill 132 civilians

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—Recent attacks by jihadi rebels in central Mali have killed 132 civilians, the government announced Monday.

The killings happened when several villages in the Bankass area were attacked on Saturday and Sunday, the government said in a statement Monday.

Three days of national mourning starting Tuesday have been declared by the head of the ruling junta, Col. Assimi Goita.

The government said the attacks were carried out by jihadi rebels of the Katiba group.

The attacks had earlier been reported by Moulaye Guindo, the mayor of Bankass, the biggest town near the attacked villages.

The attacks show that Islamic extremist violence is spreading from Mali's north to more central areas like Bankass.

For several weeks extremist rebels in central Mali have been blocking the road between the northern city of Gao and Mopti in central Mali.

The United Nations peacekeeping mission in Mali issued a statement about the attacks on Twitter saying it is concerned by "attacks against civilians in the Bandiagara region (the area of central Mali) perpetrated by extremist groups. These attacks have reportedly caused casualties and displacement of populations."

In a separate incident, a U.N. peacekeeper died on Sunday from injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device, the U.N. mission to Mali said in a statement.

The head of the U.N. Mission to Mali, El-Ghassim Wane, said that since the beginning of 2022, several attacks have killed U.N. uniformed peacekeepers.

He said that attacks on peacekeepers can constitute war crimes under international law and reaffirmed the mission's commitment to supporting peace and security in Mali.

Since the beginning of the year, several hundred civilians have died in attacks in central and northern Mali. The attacks are blamed on jihadi rebels as well as the Malian army, according to a report by the human rights division of the U.N. mission in Mali, known as MINUSMA.

The U.N. peacekeeping mission in Mali began in 2013, after France led a military intervention to oust extremist rebels who had taken over cities and major towns in northern Mali the year before. The mission now has about roughly 12,000 troops in Mali and an additional 2,000 police and other officers. More than 270 peacekeepers have died in Mali, making it the U.N.'s deadliest peacekeeping mission, say officials.

Good Housekeeping

How to rid your home of 5 pests likely to invade it

By KALEY BELAKOVICH
ANGIE'S LIST

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Many insects lay dormant for the winter and make their grand reappearance when the weather warms up.

Summer brings to mind many things: sunshine, warm temperatures, vacation—and bugs.

Many insects lay dormant for the winter and make their grand reappearance when the weather warms up. We talked to several highly rated pest-control experts to find out which pests customers most often call about, and best ways to treat them.

Ants

"The highest number of residential calls we get is due to ants," says Rick Steinau, owner of Ace Exterminating in Cincinnati.

To treat the colonizing crawlers, Steinau says the homeowner must first identify the species. "Just because you see ants doesn't mean that all ants get treated the same way," he says. "Different ants are attracted to different types of food."

If you need help identifying the species, try asking your county's extension agent. Then, Steinau says, look for ant bait. Most retail stores carry it, but be sure to read the label to make sure it's the right kind for the species in your home.

He says treatments purchased from a retail store cost $20 to $30, but some professional-level products are available online for about $10 more. For spray treatments, he charges $110 to $120.

Terry Singleton, owner of Termite Terry Pest Control in Costa Mesa, Calif., says he also offers spray treatments. These generally cost about $180 for a one-time treatment, or $85 every two months if you sign up for a treatment plan.

Bed bugs

"All socioeconomic groups can get bed bugs," Steinau says. "You can pick them up in the movie theaters, at a restaurant, on a plane or a bus or sitting at the doctor's office. It's a very common problem now."

Ray Johnson, owner of Johnson Pest Control in Sevierville, Tenn. says his company treats bed bugs on a daily basis. "We see terrible situations," he says. "It's really sad. A lot of people are trying to self-treat, and when they go out and buy a can of something, the problem gets worse and they spread."

Experts say the best way to completely eliminate bed bugs is to hire a professional to either fumigate with chemicals or perform a heat treatment.

Johnson also advises homeowners to protect their mattresses. "Use mattress encasements," he says. "A lot of people find out they have bed bugs and throw out the mattress and bring in a new mattress, but they'll still get them from the springs." Placing a protective cover over your new mattress prevents bed bugs from infesting it and feeding on you at night.

Steinau says spot treating bed bugs usually requires three treatments to deal with all life cycles of the pests. The first treatment can cost $100 to $150 per room, with two follow-up treatments costing $60 to $90 each per room.

Heat treatments usually cost about $1,500 to $2,000, he says.

Cockroaches

"We're seeing a lot of roaches in this area," says Bell Dash, customer service director of Bug Out Service in Jacksonville, Fla. To treat cockroaches, she says, her company conducts an inspection to target any areas with sanitation issues and then uses bait to kill them.

Howard Richardson-El, production manager of City Wide Exterminating Service in Philadelphia, says German cockroaches prove to be the hardest pest to get rid of because they live inside the home, whereas other cockroaches migrate into the home.

Johnson says he applies pesticide with a fogging machine and crack and crevice treatments. Since some cockroaches won't be killed immediately if not exposed to the pesticide, it can take months to completely rid a home of the pests, and can cost hundreds of dollars.

Termites

Singleton says most of his calls involve termite troubles, which require a professional's touch to treat. "Many of the houses require fumigation," he says. "We also do a variety of localized treatments."

Fumigations cost about $1,200 or more, he says, and localized treatments start at about $550 and go up, depending on the extent of the problem.

Millipedes

Dash says recent calls from Florida customers also involve millipedes, which require treatment from the outside.

"Pull mulch away from the house," she says. "Get rid of any moisture or drainage issues. They like to nest where it's moist. They get underneath the mulch."

It's best to get rid of the millipedes' environment before treating with chemicals, she says, because it's hard to apply pesticides underneath mulch.

As for the millipedes already in your home, she offers a piece of advice. "If you have millipedes, a vacuum is your best friend."

Construction curveball? Don't forget the Change Order

By MICHAEL SCHROEDER
ANGIE'S LIST

It's just a piece of paper, often only one sheet, and different companies write it up different ways. Yet when needed, the change order could prove the only thing that stands between you and hundreds or thousands of dollars worth of misunderstanding—or worse, unauthorized work that inflates the price of a project.

This addendum to the original contract ensures the service provider and customer are on the same page and that both sign the dotted line before making any changes to a job already in progress.

"You need to have a written record of the project," says Robert Criner, founder of Criner Remodeling , in Newport News, Va. "It keeps the job running smooth, and there aren't any surprises for anybody." Criner serves as vice chair of the NAHB Remodelers, which represents the interests of the National Association of Homebuilders' remodeling industry members.

For a construction or remodeling job—a common place for the change order—it details that project-already-underway switch in tile styles you asked for in the bathroom or outlines additional work a contractor needs to do after finding rot under the floor. The written agreement should communicate changes to job scope, how these impact cost, when you're expected to pay (if it adds to the price tag) and any changes to the project completion date, since modifications often push that deadline back, Criner says.

He prefers to call them "change requests" since they're optional. That's another reason to get changes in writing first, experts say, so you can review the details before proceeding with work.

Highly rated contractors say most change orders occur as a result of customers' suggested tweaks once the project has started. Unforeseen issues can legitimately result in change orders on the contractor's side, too, but experts caution consumers to be wary of an endless stream of paperwork.

"Unfortunately, there are contractors out there that rely on change orders to make their margins," says Charlie Griffey, owner of Griffey Remodeling n Columbus, Ohio. "When you hear about people low-balling their estimates, it comes down to how detailed is their proposal and scale of work?"

In advance of signing off on any project, you should expect a thorough proposal that not only outlines what you'll physically see in the space—the new divider wall and paint color—but also what you don't, such as that pre-formed base put in before a shower install to prevent leaks.

9 uses for a pressure washer

By TOM MOOR
ANGIE'S LIST

If you enjoy cleaning, then you'll have a blast using a pressure washer.

Although you've probably used a pressure washer to remove stains from the side of your home or walkway, you may not realize they offer far more uses than cleaning siding (although they're great for that, too).

You can pressure wash all sorts of items around the house. So, pick a warm, sunny day and head outside to tackle some overdue cleaning projects.

1. Cars and trucks

Use a pressure washer to remove dirt from a car or truck—especially the wheel wells and undercarriage—where dirt and grime tend to build up.

Just make sure not to use a high-powered setting, or the car's clear coat or paint might come off.

Motorcycles, RVs and most other types of motorized vehicles can also be cleaned with pressure washers.

2. Boats

Just like your vehicle, pressure washers will also take the dirt and algae off the exterior of boats. Again, don't use too high of a setting.

3. Outdoor furniture

Outdoor furniture gets extremely dirty, especially if you don't store it away for the winter. Pressure washing can make your outdoor furniture look like new again.

4. Decks and patios

Just like your home, car and driveway, decks and patios take a beating from Mother Nature, dirt and debris.

Pressure washing a deck or patio can remove dirt and grime and return it to its original color. You might be surprised what a difference it makes.

5. Fencing

Fences—whether wooden, vinyl or aluminum—can be cleaned with a pressure washer.

6. Garage door, floor and driveway

Driveways and garage floors take a lashing from constant driving, while oil and fluid leaks cause staining. Use a pressure washer to easily eliminate these markings.

7. Grills

Grills get caked in grease and grime and can be extremely difficult to clean. Before pressure washing, make sure to detach any propane or electrical hookups.

8. Lawn mower and lawn equipment

Lawn mowers and yard equipment get very dirty after a full year of use. A pressure washer can remove all of the dirt and grass and get them ready for spring or winter storage.

9. What's in that tree?

Puzzled how to get that football out of the tree? A pressure washer just might be the answer.

Life & Style

Nobel sold for Ukrainian kids shatters record at $103.5M

NEW YORK (AP)—The Nobel Peace Prize auctioned off by Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov to raise money for Ukrainian child refugees sold Monday night for $103.5 million, shattering the old record for a Nobel.

A spokesperson for Heritage Auctions, which handled the sale, could not confirm the identity of the buyer but said the winning bid was made by proxy. The $103.5 million sale translates to $100 million Swiss francs, hinting that the buyer is from overseas.

"I was hoping that there was going to be an enormous amount of solidarity, but I was not expecting this to be such a huge amount," Muratov said in an interview after bidding in the nearly 3-week auction ended on World Refugee Day.

Previously, the most ever paid for a Nobel Prize medal was $4.76 million in 2014, when James Watson, whose co-discovery of the structure of DNA earned him a Nobel Prize in 1962, sold his. Three years later, the family of his co-recipient, Francis Crick, received $2.27 million in bidding also run by Heritage Auctions.

Muratov, who was awarded the gold medal in October 2021, helped found the independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta and was the publication's editor-in-chief when it shut down in March amid the Kremlin's clampdown on journalists and public dissent in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It was Muratov's idea to auction off his prize, having already announced he was donating the accompanying $500,000 cash award to charity.

Muratov has said the proceeds will go directly to UNICEF in its efforts to help children displaced by the war in Ukraine. Just minutes after bidding ended, UNICEF told the auction house it had already received the funds.

AP

Nobel Peace Prize winner Dmitry Muratov, editor-in-chief of the influential Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta, poses for a picture next to his 23-karat gold medal before it is auctioned at the Times Center, Monday, June 20, 2022, in New York.

Online bids had begun June 1 to coincide with the International Children's Day observance. Many bids came by telephone or online. The winning bid, tendered by telephone, catapulted the bidding from the low millions to astronomical levels.

Muratov had left Russia on Thursday to begin his trip to New York City, where live bidding began Monday evening.

Early Monday, the high bid was only $550,000. The purchase price had been expected to spiral upward—but not over $100 million.

"I can't believe it. I'm awestruck. Personally, I'm flabbergasted. I'm stunned. I don't really know what happened in there," said Joshua Benesh, the chief strategy officer for Heritage Auctions.

"We knew that there was a tremendous groundswell of interest in the last couple of days by people who were moved by Dimitry's story, by Dimitry's act of generosity, that the global audience was listening tonight," he said.

Muratov and Heritage officials said even those out of the bidding can still help by donating directly to UNICEF.

Muratov shared the Nobel Peace Prize last year with journalist Maria Ressa of the Philippines.

The two journalists, who each received their own medals, were honored for their battles to preserve free speech in their respective countries, despite coming under attack by harassment, their governments and even death threats.

Melted down, the 175 grams of 23-karat gold contained in Muratov's medal would be worth about $10,000.

Muratov has been highly critical of Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and the war launched in February that has caused nearly 5 million Ukrainians to flee to other countries for safety, creating the largest humanitarian crisis in Europe since World War II.

Independent journalists in Russia have come under scrutiny by the Kremlin, if not outright targets of the government. Since Putin came into power more than two decades ago, nearly two dozen journalists have been killed, including at least four who had worked for Muratov's newspaper.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Rob Kardashian and Blac Chyna settle before trial's sequel

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A settlement agreement has been reached on the eve of a second trial pitting the Kardashian family against former reality TV star Blac Chyna. Jury selection had been set to begin Monday in the trial over Chyna's allegations that her former fiance Rob Kardashian maliciously posted nude photos of her in 2017 after their tumultuous breakup, but according to court documents, the parties informed the judge that they had agreed to a settlement. Emails to attorneys for both sides seeking comment and details on the terms of the settlement were not immediately returned. A trial had seemed a virtual certainty after the judge last week denied a motion by Kardashian's attorneys to enforce a settlement agreement they said the two sides had reached. The trial was to be a sequel of sorts to a defamation trial earlier this year in which Chyna, whose legal name is Angela White, alleged that Kardashian's mother and sisters—Kris Jenner, Kim Kardashian, Khloé Kardashian and Kylie Jenner—had defamed her as violent and unstable, and persuaded producers and executives to cancel her reality show, "Rob & Chyna."

Woman who drove man who killed Nipsey Hussle testifies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A woman testified Monday that she unwittingly drove the man now charged with killing rapper Nipsey Hussle to and from the scene of the shooting, not accepting that he had fired the deadly shots despite seeing him load a gun moments before. Bryannita Nicholson, 35, said that when she and Eric Holder, with whom she had been in a casual relationship (but not quite dating) for about five weeks, pulled into a South Los Angeles shopping center on March 31, 2019, she was surprised and gleeful to spot Hussle, whose music she loved. "I said, 'Ooh, there goes Nipsey, he fine," Nicholson testified, "I want to take a picture with him.'"The testimony from Nicholson, a key prosecution witness who is getting immunity in exchange, came on the fourth day of Holder's trial. He is charged with first degree murder for the killing of the 33-year-old hip-hop artist who had just been nominated for Grammy for his major-label-debut album after years of underground acclaim.

2 deputies disciplined after Bob Saget death investigation

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Two Florida deputies have each been suspended for about two weeks for leaking news about actor and comedian Bob Saget's death before his family was alerted, officials said. The Orange County Sheriff's Office confirmed Monday that the two deputies were each suspended for 81 hours without pay. "This case highlights how important it is to allow detectives in death investigations the time to ensure next of kin notifications are made before that information is disseminated to the public," Orange County Sheriff John Mina said in a statement. "The deputies acknowledged their wrongdoing and were disciplined for their actions." One of the deputies told his brother about Saget's death shortly after responding to the scene, and then the brother posted the information on social media, according to an investigation report. The other deputy, who was off-duty and not involved in the death investigation, told his neighbor about Saget's passing, officials said.

Man's history as abuse victim impacts marriage

DEAR ABBY: My husband was forced into sex at the age of 12 by an older female. He has expressed how humiliated he felt and that he made it his mission to never feel inadequate again. He gets his "knowledge" of satisfying a woman through porn. I have tried to explain to him that what he's seeing is only a performance put on for the male viewer.

I have tried more than once to show him what really makes a woman "tick," but he insists I don't know what I'm talking about and that I'm lying to him! I have tried every gentle approach to avoid hurting his feelings. I know from family members' comments about his bedroom having been a "revolving door" for women that he probably didn't use much discernment in his past.

How can I move forward when I feel like he's stuck in the past? I know being sexually abused causes all kinds of trauma. He insists he's over it, but his actions tell me otherwise. I'm pretty sure I'm not his first unsatisfied partner because all his other relationships have ended because they were "crazy, stupid, fat, unfaithful ..." I don't want to give up on him. Please help.

PATIENT WIFE IN FLORIDA

DEAR WIFE: Talking to your husband must be like talking to a wall. Solid marriages are built on trust and good communication, and your husband seems capable of neither. I admire your perseverance. The fact that he may have never had counseling to deal with what he went through as a child is regrettable. It could help even now.

A licensed sex therapist might be able to help your husband see that you are not lying to him when you tell him that what pleases one woman might not please another. If you can't make him understand what makes you "tick," then cross your fingers and hope the therapist can get the message across.

DEAR ABBY: My 40-year-old nephew, "Randy," hasn't spoken with his sister, "Elyse," in five years because of a disagreement about the resolution of their father's trust. When they visited me four years ago, he wouldn't speak to her.

Elyse and her husband later announced they were adopting a baby. Randy visited me alone six months later, and I suggested, without success, that he put this aside until after the adoption. During the adoption, she became pregnant and had a second child. Randy still hasn't seen or talked with her or his niece and nephew. Our relationship has deteriorated since.

Randy and Elyse tried a mediator last year, again without success. (I should mention he doesn't speak with his mother, either.) He has dodged any further discussion about the situation. I'm at a loss. We were all so close, and I miss him, but I can't accept his actions anymore. Any suggestions?

UNCLE IN PAIN

DEAR UNCLE: In some families, blood is thicker than water. Your nephew appears to feel that money is thicker than blood. As much as you might wish to do it, you can't change him. Because his unwillingness to relent is causing you pain, limit your interactions with him and maintain your relationship with Elyse, the children and Randy's mother.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

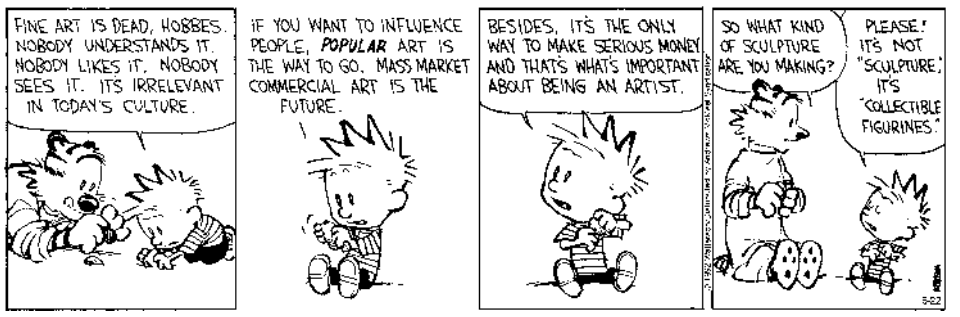
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

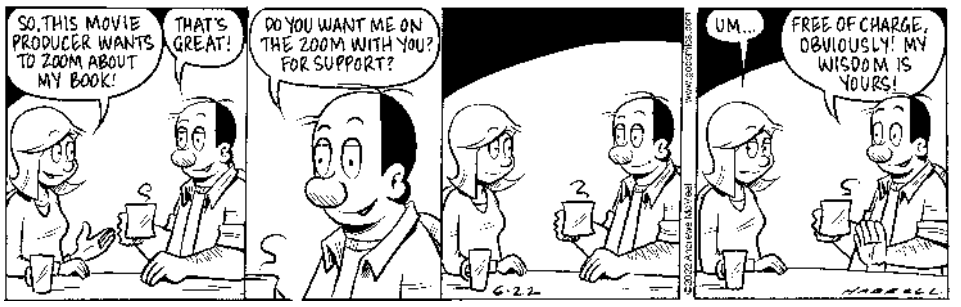

FINE ART IS DEAD, HOBBES. NOBODY UNDERSTANDS IT. NOBODY LIKES IT. NOBODY SEES IT. IT'S IRRELEVANT IN TODAY'S CULTURE.
IF YOU WANT TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE, POPULAR ART IS THE WAY TO GO. MASS MARKET COMMERCIAL ART IS THE FUTURE.
BESIDES, IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE SERIOUS MONEY AND THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT ABOUT BEING AN ARTIST.
SO WHAT KIND OF SCULPTURE ARE YOU MAKING?
PLEASE! IT'S NOT "SCULPTURE;" IT'S "COLLECTIBLE FIGURINES."

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO, THIS MOVIE PRODUCER WANTS TO ZOOM ABOUT MY BOOK!
THAT'S GREAT!
DO YOU WANT ME ON THE ZOOM WITH YOU? FOR SUPPORT?
UM...
FREE OF CHARGE, OBVIOUSLY! MY WISDOM IS YOURS!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

TRIXIE, WE HAVE TO STOP MEETING LIKE THIS: THE OTHER DOGS AT THIS KENNEL WILL TALK!
LET THEM! I DON'T CARE! KISS ME, REX!
WE SHOULDN'T!
YOUR MOUTH SAYS "NO," BUT YOUR TAIL SAYS "YES"!
YEP.
THAT'S CALLED A TATTLE-TAIL.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Early bird?
4 Loopy
8 Send forth
12 Pair
13 Concerning
14 Camera part
15 Glass of public radio
16 Get out of the way
18 Dutch bloom
20 Uncle, to Pedro
21 Novelist Picoult
24 Smacks a baseball
28 Posterior
32 Shredded cabbage dish
33 Post-op area
34 Merits
36 Mode lead-in
37 Sleuth Wolfe
39 Trusted companion
41 Raiment
43 Not all
44 "— Poetica"
46 Domed home
50 Bicycle support
55 Online address
56 Sofa brand
57 Roman god of love
58 PC screen type
59 Inert gas
60 "Ratatouille" rat
61 Vegas lead-in

DOWN
1 Work on proofs
2 Mentor
3 Soccer score
4 Get rid (of)
5 Busy insect
6 Monk's title
7 Circus structure
8 Macaroni shapes
9 "Give — break!"
10 Business mag
11 "For shame!"
17 Insult
19 Trio after H
22 "Buenos —!"
23 "Thor" actor Elba
25 Jai —
26 Body powder
27 Love letter abbr.
28 Predicament
29 Computer brand
30 Heal
31 Within (Pref.)
35 Like some Rieslings
38 Certain Honshu resident
40 Small barrel
42 Yearbook gp.
45 Rating unit
47 Temporary calm
48 Killer whale
49 Early automaker
50 Family
51 '50s president
52 Corp. boss
53 Soul, to Camus
54 — de plume

Solution time: 23 mins.

N	A	P	A		P	U	M	P		N	I	B
I	C	E	S		:	D	E	A		A	D	D
N	E	W	S	S	:	C	R	Y		I	O	S
			E	L	A	N		L	U	L	L	S
L	E	N	T	O			R	O	S	S		
I	D	E	S		R	U	T	A	B	A	G	A
M	:	I		C	A	S	E	D		L	I	B
B	E	L	I	E	V	E	S		D	C	L	E
		S	O	M	E		Γ	:	N	D	S	
B	R	I	N	E		W	A	G	E			
R	:	M		N	O	R	T	H	S	T	A	R
A	G	O		T	R	A	M		C	R	I	C
T	A	N		S	A	P	S		L	I	M	P

Yesterday's answer 6-22

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				17				
18			19		■	■	20			■	■	■
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31	■	32			
33			■	34				35	■	36		
37			38	■	39				40			
41				42	■	43				■	■	■
■	■	■	44		45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54			■	55	
56				■	57					■	58	
59				■	60					■	61	

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carson Daly, 49; Cyndi Lauper, 69; Meryl Streep, 73; Todd Rundgren, 74.

Happy Birthday: You'll be a part of something new and exciting this year if you stick close to movers and shakers. Your insight and descriptive way of explaining what you want and what you see happening will make it easier to achieve your goals. Everything will fall into place once you focus on love, personal growth and your image. Your numbers are 8, 15, 26, 33, 37, 41, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Recognize what and who you are up against, then adjust how you do things to avoid controversy. Don't share too much information until you have enough feedback to ensure nothing can go wrong and you won't be left in a vulnerable position. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* An energetic approach to whatever you do will help you outshine the competition. Use the element of surprise to keep everyone guessing and waiting to see what you'll do next. Don't argue with anyone in a position of authority. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Your charismatic appeal will attract plenty of attention. Speak up, offer insight and adjust to fit trends. How you use your energy and dedicate your time will determine your success. You'll receive insight into something that concerns you. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take a minimalist approach to life, love and work. Don't take on too much or expect too much in return. Look for alternative means and methods to ensure you reach your target without many obstacles. An unusual offer will cause uncertainty. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Trust your instincts and share your thoughts. Speak up and protect yourself from pushy people trying to persuade you to do something that doesn't feel right. Put to rest a challenge limiting your freedom or well-being before damage results. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't buy into something unfamiliar to you. Knowing what you are up against is your best defense. A physical effort will make a difference in the way things unfold. Put your heart and soul into your dreams, hopes and wishes. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You can talk your way in or out of anything if you use your intelligence. A positive attitude will draw attention, but exaggeration will cause problems if you can't deliver your promises. Set reasonable requests and conditions to maintain consistency and success. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Clear up money matters. Stay away from joint ventures, shared expenses and discussions that can cost you emotionally or financially. Make health, fitness and meaningful relationships your priorities. Look for multiple solutions that will suit both you and others. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Get out and have fun. An energetic challenge will motivate you to take responsibility for your happiness and bring about positive changes at home that will make you feel good about yourself and how you live. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Emotional anger will build if you can't agree with a close associate. Take nothing for granted, and you won't be disappointed. The more you do for yourself, the easier it will be to get what you want. Romance and home improvements are favored. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put everything you've got into what you want to achieve. Invest in yourself and your skills, and you'll find an exciting way to raise your earning potential. A romantic gesture will boost your morale and bring you closer to someone you love. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take better care of yourself mentally and physically. Don't take a risk or let someone put you in an awkward position. Rule out any situation that doesn't seem fair or won't help you make headway. Truth matters. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, entertaining and kind. You are dynamic and playful.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8	4				1	3	
3			2		9			6
			3					8
			4					5
			7					2
		8					9	
	2					8		
5					1			
8	1	9	6		5	7	2	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/22

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	1	5	4	7	2	3	9	8
8	2	7	6	3	9	1	4	5
3	9	4	8	5	1	6	7	2
9	5	1	3	2	4	8	6	7
4	8	2	5	6	7	9	3	1
7	3	6	9	1	8	5	2	4
5	4	3	7	8	6	2	1	9
1	6	9	2	4	5	7	8	3
2	7	8	1	9	3	4	5	6

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

'IMPOSTERS' (TV SERIES) Solution: 11 letters

A	V	A	R	T	W	O	R	K	T	I	E	C	E	D
U	L	U	R	E	G	A	T	S	O	H	J	O	K	E
N	O	I	S	E	V	E	I	H	T	U	D	G	(E)	B
T	V	I	C	E	C	A	N	G	L	E	N	N	(Y)	B
I	E	U	J	E	F	F	R	E	Y	I	P	U	(E)	O
E	E	N	C	O	Z	L	S	G	N	I	R	O	(S)	R
C	N	R	E	I	B	R	M	B	E	S	Y	Y	P	A
O	G	O	C	T	X	S	A	R	D	N	L	R	A	E
L	A	T	R	A	F	R	D	N	I	O	L	E	E	P
L	G	P	M	F	L	L	D	O	I	C	E	K	H	P
E	E	A	A	A	F	A	I	R	C	G	H	R	B	A
E	M	C	V	L	R	A	E	X	A	T	S	A	O	S
N	E	I	E	E	S	S	S	I	T	M	O	P	R	I
S	N	E	A	K	Y	O	H	D	E	M	A	R	F	D
O	T	U	K	C	I	R	T	A	P	O	P	P	Y	S

©2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 6/22

Alice, Angle, Area, Artwork, Auntie Colleen, Ava, Captor, CeCe, Cons, Deceit, Deny, Disappear, Doctor, Drama, Engagement, Eyes, Ezra, Flee, Framed, Gina, Hostage, Inbar Lavi, Jeffrey, Jobs, Joke, Jules, Lenny, Love, Lure, Maddie, Marsha, Max, Netflix, Pals, Parker Young, Patrick, Poppy, Richard, Ring, Robbed, Rob Heaps, Rosa, Saffron, Shelly, Sneaky, Thieves, Vice

Yesterday's Answer: Casual

Treasuries 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 48 can be purchased online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Cole no-hit bid into 8th, Yanks beat Rays 4-2 for 50th win

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Gerrit Cole took a no-hit bid into the eighth inning, Aaron Hicks hit a tiebreaking triple in the ninth as Manuel Margot slammed into the right-field wall and the New York Yankees beat the Tampa Bay Rays 4-2 on Monday night for their 50th win.

New York has won 17 of its last 19 games, and its 50-17 start is the best in the major leagues since the 2001 Seattle Mariners. The Yankees opened a 12-game lead over second-place Toronto and Tampa Bay dropped into fourth, 14 games back in the AL East.

"For us to answer back like that just shows what this team's about," said Aaron Judge, who went 0 for 3 with a walk. "We don't just live or die by the long ball. We're just a good all-around team."

Margot sprained a knee, and Rays manager Kevin Cash expects him to miss significant time.

Cole struck out 12 and walked three, allowing one run and one hit in 7 1/3 innings. Cole struck out six in a row at one point and led 2-0 when Isaac Paredes led off the eighth by grounding a slider on Cole's 105th pitch off the mound and into center field. On June 3, Cole pitched 6 2/3 perfect innings at Detroit.

"Any time you get to the eighth inning, you're starting to smell it and it gets close. But once (the no-hitter) goes by the wayside and it'a tie game, it's right back to: 'Let's go find a way to get this thing done,'' Yankees manager Aaron Boone made. "Just a good resilient victory and a lot of good things that helped us get there."

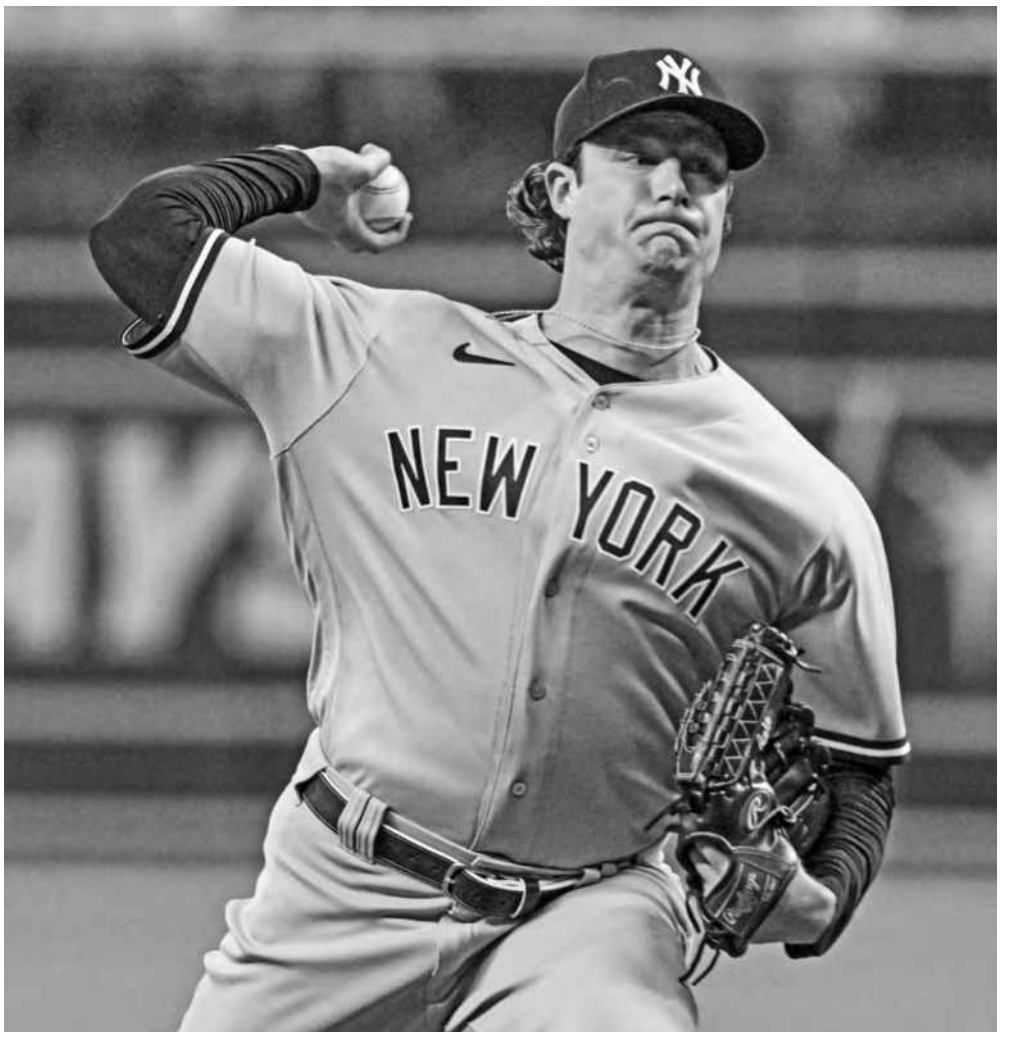
Judge didn't realize Cole was flirting with a no-hitter until the sixth inning.

"He was just cruising. I guess it was just a normal Cole day," Judge said. "He had all his pitches working tonight. Just to be able to use all those pitches in any count, in any situation, is pretty impressive."

Clay Holmes (5-0) blew a 2-0 lead and allowed his first run since opening day, ending a 31 1/3 inning scoreless streak.

Anthony Rizzo hit a first-inning home run off Shane McClanahan, and the Yankees got a run in the seventh on an error by first baseman Ji-Man Choi, the major league-high 45th unearned run allowed by the Rays.

With the score 2-2, Josh Donaldson singled off Jason Adam (0-2) with one out in the ninth and Hicks, batting .321 in June, drove a hanging changeup high off the right-field wall. Margot fell to the field as center fielder Brett Phillips retrieved the ball and Donaldson scored. Cash and an athletic trainer went out to Margot, who had a sprained knee and left the field on a cart.



AP

New York Yankees starter Gerrit Cole pitches against the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of a baseball game Monday, June 20, 2022, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Jose Trevino followed with a sacrifice fly.

Wandy Peralta pitched the ninth for his second save, and the Yankees improved to 6-2 against the Rays this season, striking out Josh Lowe with two on and retiring Francisco Mejía on a flyout.

After Paredes singled off a clearly deflated Cole, Lowe flied out to Judge against the center field wall, and Holmes relieved.

"I thought I had good stuff," Cole said. "I've never thrown a no-hitter, so I can't tell you what no-hit stuff looks like."

"His numbers are pretty crazy. I think he'll get it one day," Holmes said.

Mejía doubled down the right-field line and Yandy Díaz hit a soft bouncer to Holmes, who threw to first for the out as only the second of 13 runners he inherited this season scored.

Margot hit a bouncer to the third-base side, and Holmes' throw to first was off line and not in time as Margot reached with a single and Mejía scored to tie it 2-2.

Rizzo hit his 19th home run this season and became just the second left-handed batter to homer off McClanahan this year after Seattle's Jesse Winker.

Mets 6, Marlins 0

In New York, David Peterson pitched into the sixth inning with wife Alex expected to go into labor soon, and New York beat Miami.

Peterson (4-1) allowed six hits and two walks in 5 1/3 innings with a season-high seven strikeouts, New York, which lost Jeff McNeil to right hamstring tightness, took three of four from the Marlins and tied the Yankees for the lead with 11 shutouts. The Mets took a 4-0 lead against Trevor Rogers (3-6) with two sacrifice flies, Mark Canha's bases-loaded walk and McNeil's scurry home.

Andrew Vaughn matched a career high with four hits, including a solo homer, and the Chicago White Sox celebrated Tim Anderson's return with an 8-7 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Monday night.

White Sox 8, Blue Jays 7

In Chicago, Andrew Vaughn matched a career high with four hits, including a solo homer, and Luis Robert and Josh Harrison homered as Chicago won for the fifth time in seven games.

Tim Anderson had two hits in his first big league game since May 29. He was activated from the 10-day injured list after being sidelined by a strained right groin.

Toronto lost for the fourth time in five games. Raimel Tapia and Cavan Biggio each hit a two-run homer for the Blue Jays, but José Berríos (5-3) was tagged for six runs and nine hits in four innings.

Lance Lynn (1-0) was charged with five runs, three earned, and four hits in five-plus innings, and Joe Kelly got his first save this season.

Red Sox 5, Tigers 2

In Boston, Jarren Duran had two hits, two stolen bases and two runs, and Josh Winckowski (2-1) allowed two runs and seven hits in 6 2/3 innings in Boston's win over Detroit.

Franchy Cordero had three hits, including a two-run single, and Boston won for the sixth time in eight games to climb a season-high six games above .500. Tanner Houck pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Alex Faedo (1-4) lasted just 4 1/3 innings for the Tigers, who had won two straight after losing six in a row.

Braves 2, Giants 1

In Atlanta, Orlando Arcia drove in pinch-runner Phil Gosselin from second with a tiebreaking single in the ninth off Camilo Doval (2-3), leading Atlanta past San Francisco.

Kenley Jansen (4-0) stranded runners on second and third in the ninth when he struck out Thairo Estrada and pinch-hitter Brandon Crawford.

The defending World Series champion Braves have won 16 of 18.

Pirates 12, Cubs 1

In Pittsburgh, newly promoted Oneil Cruz drove in four runs and Bligh Madris got three hits in his major league debut as Pittsburgh set a season high for runs.

Madris became the first Pirates player to have a three-hit game in his debut since Jason Kendall in 1996.

JT Brubaker (1-7) scattered five hits in six scoreless innings for his first win since last Aug. 24, The Pirates took advantage of five walks by rookie Caleb Kilian (0-2), who was tagged for seven runs in 2 1/3 innings.

Brewers 2, Cardinals 0

In Milwaukee, Corbin Burnes (5-4) struck out 10 in seven innings and allowed two hits in Milwaukee's win over St. Louis.

Tyrone Taylor hit a two-run homer off Miles Mikolas (5-5), and the Brewers regained sole possession of first place in the NL Central. Milwaukee followed an eight-game skid by winning six of eight. Josh Hader worked the ninth for his 20th save in 21 chances.

Padres 4, Diamondbacks 1

In San Diego, Yu Darvish pitched seven strong innings and Jake Cronenworth and Trent Grisham homered to lead San Diego over Arizona.

Kim Ha-seong hit a go-ahead, two-run single in the second for the Padres, who were without All-Star slugger Manny Machado, who sprained his left ankle Sunday in a loss at Colorado.

Darvish (7-3) struggled through a 33-pitch first inning but got out of a bases-loaded jam after allowing just one run. He held the Diamondbacks to one run and four hits, struck out five and walked two. Taylor Rogers pitched a perfect ninth for his 21st save.

Zach Davies (2-4), who pitched for the Padres in 2020, lost his third straight decision over seven starts after allowing four runs and four hits in six innings. He hasn't won since May 13, against the Chicago Cubs.

Royals 6, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Calif., Andrew Benintendi, Salvador Perez and Hunter Dozier homered, Nicky Lopez drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning and Kansas City defeated Los Angeles.

Kris Bubic, who came into the game as one of four pitchers in the majors to have at least eight starts and no wins this season, struck out a season-high seven in six innings for his first victory, improving to 1-4. He went six innings and gave up two runs on six hits and walked two.

Taylor Ward had two hits — including a homer in the third inning — and drove in both runs for the Angels. Los

Noah Syndergaard (4-6) worked into the eighth inning for only the second time in 11 starts, but struggled at the end. He allowed five runs on eight hits in 7 1/3 innings, striking out five and walking two.

MLB moving forward with long-delayed 13-pitcher limit

CHICAGO (AP)—Come Monday, there is going to be a little more room in big league bullpens, from Seattle to Tampa Bay, and plenty of places in between.

Major League Baseball is moving forward with its oft-delayed plan for a 13-pitcher limit on active rosters. The move could affect the game in a variety of ways, from more position players taking the mound to a few more trips to the minors for pitchers with options.

"I don't know that I understand it. And it is OK because we follow the rules," Cleveland manager Terry Francona said. "But it's just one of those where it is a little hard when they're telling you how to compete. I feel like sometimes, especially with our doubleheaders coming up, I think it can put teams at a disadvantage."

The 13-pitcher limit originally was announced by MLB before the 2020 season, one of several changes that included expanding active rosters by one to 26 and requiring pitchers to face at least three batters or finish a half-inning. But the limit has been pushed back repeatedly because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MLB and the union said March 31 that a 13-pitcher limit would be enforced starting May 2, then on April 16 announced the date had been pushed back to May 30. They said last month that the change would go into effect June 20, and MLB sent out a reminder last week.

Champion Warriors celebrate fourth title in eight seasons

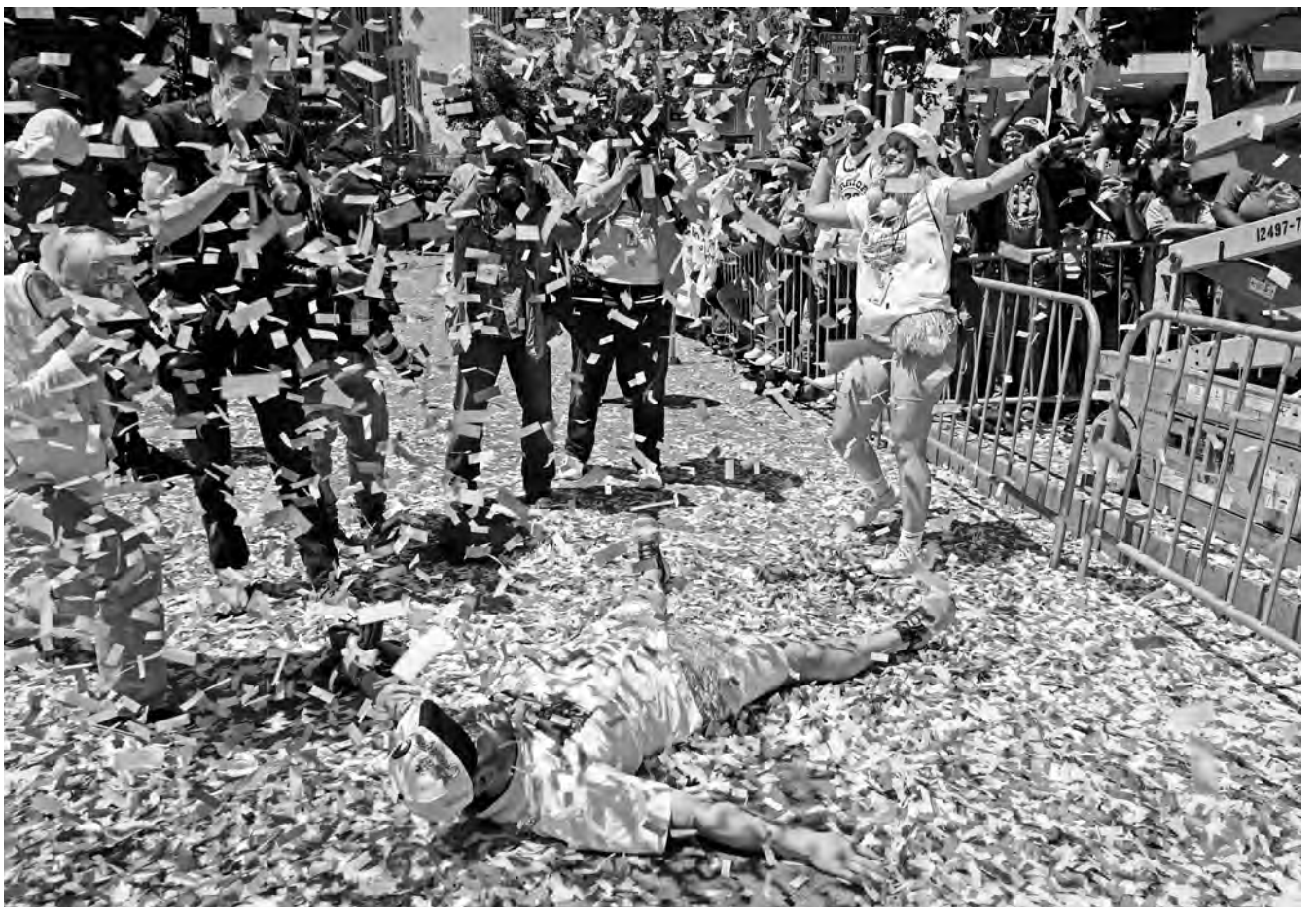
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—From the moment all those months ago that Klay Thompson uttered "championship or bust" with his team off to an 18-2 start, the Golden State Warriors seemed set to make good on his lofty proclamation.

It took Thompson getting healthy at last, then Draymond Green and Stephen Curry overcoming their own injuries down the stretch, and a cast of youngsters shining on the big playoff stage for the Warriors to win again.

Coach Steve Kerr and his champion Warriors celebrated with a victory parade through San Francisco on Monday as thousands packed the streets on a warm June day and blue and gold confetti fell — with all those new faces taking part this time, too. Players jumped off their respective rides to mingle with fans, Otto Porter Jr. and Thompson dancing and Andrew Wiggins spraying fans with champagne.

Curry sported his three previous championship rings on a necklace.

"I had to bring the jewelry back out. I don't look at it during the year," Curry told NBC Sports Bay Area.



AP

A man lays on Market Street as confetti rains during the Golden State Warriors NBA championship parade in San Francisco, Monday, June 20, 2022.

Golden State captured the franchise's fourth championship in eight years Thursday night by beating the Boston Celtics 103-90 in the clinching Game 6. Afterward, Finals MVP Curry, Thompson and Green — the three core members part of each title run, sat together in celebration, with Curry cradling the trophy.

And this time, Thompson's "Holy cannoli, this is crazy" reaction resounded everywhere. With the Warriors winning on the road, the home fans got their moment to cheer the team once more on Monday.

"We know what we're capable of and we're playing at the highest level," third-year guard Jordan Poole said Saturday as players went through exit interviews. "We wouldn't be here if we had any self doubt. When you put guys together who are able to really lock in and do it together as a team, the power and the feeling is all, it's insane. You can kind of feel that positive vibe and positive energy, and we all have each other's back."

Thompson returned in January from more than 2 1/2 years sidelined following surgery for a torn ACL in his left knee then another operation on his torn right Achilles tendon. But Green then went down followed by Curry late in the regular season.

Fellow veteran Andre Iguodala, the 2015 NBA Finals MVP who is now 38 and also missed significant time, returned to contribute during the postseason and help Golden State get back to the top.

A whole cast of newcomers contributed to this title — from Poole to Wiggins to Gary Payton II.

"This one hits different for sure, just knowing what the last three years have meant, what it's been like from injuries to changing of the guard in the rosters, Wiggs coming through, our young guys carrying the belief that we could get back to this stage and

win, even if it didn't make sense to anybody when we said it, all that stuff matters," Curry said. "And now we got four championships. Me, Dray, Klay, and Andre, we finally got that bad boy. It's special."

Those new faces are a big reason why this one feels a little different. When Golden State won back-to-back titles in 2017 and '18 before falling to Toronto the following year, Kevin Durant joined Curry, Green and Thompson as they began to build a dynasty. There were five straight NBA Finals trips from 2015-19.

"We had Kevin Durant for three years with this core group. Those teams were untouchable," coach Steve Kerr said. "This team has been compared to our first championship team in 2015. Maybe there are some similarities. This is still a really talented group of players."

Wiggins, Payton and Porter all have expressed their desire to return to the Warriors, while assistant coach Kenny Atkinson backed out of the head coaching position with Charlotte to stay put and try to win another title in the Bay Area.

"It's really special to see guys like Wiggs and Loon and Gary Payton, just how far they have come, the impact they made, Jordan Poole, the same thing," Kerr said. "I know I'm going to forget people but it takes a full team effort to do this, and we just had a great group."

Orlando still evaluating all options with No. 1 draft pick

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—College basketball season ended almost three months ago, the NBA draft lottery was more than a month ago and the draft itself is later this week.

Seems like the process should be winding down.

Orlando Magic President Jeff Weltman sees it differently.

"I tell you, it's still early in the process," Weltman said Monday.

Translated: The Magic haven't decided yet what they'll do on Thursday night, when the draft rolls around and they have the No. 1 pick. Other teams have called to gauge what the asking price would be if they want to trade for that selection, and the Magic have evaluated all the top candidates.

But Weltman sees no reason to decide anything before it's absolutely necessary, especially given the opportunity Orlando has by holding this No. 1 pick.

"Dialogue is always ongoing," Weltman said. "But, most importantly, we get to do what we want. That's the real benefit of having the No. 1 pick."

The top candidates for the pick are well-known: Auburn's Jabari Smith Jr. worked out for Orlando earlier this month, Gonzaga's Chet Holmgren met with the Magic for multiple days last week and Duke's Paolo Banchero has been working out with former Magic guard Mike Miller.

AP

Jeff Weltman, Orlando Magic NBA basketball team president of basketball operations, answers questions at a news conference, Thursday, April 12, 2018, in Orlando, Fla.

Holmgren said he came away convinced that "great people" are leading the Magic.

"They've got a vision for what they're trying to put together in Orlando," Holmgren said.

Weltman wouldn't say that those are the only three candidates Orlando would consider at No. 1.

"It's confirmed that there are a lot of talented players at the top of this draft, that's for sure," Weltman said.

This is the fourth time that Orlando will be making the first pick. The Magic took Shaquille O'Neal with the top selection in 1992. Chris Webber was the No. 1 pick by Orlando in 1993, and he got traded that same night for Penny Hardaway and a package of future picks that were eventually turned into Vince Carter and, later, Miller. And in 2004, the Magic selected Dwight Howard with the first pick.

The No. 1 pick on Thursday will join a young core in Orlando that already includes 2017 top pick Markelle Fultz, a pair of top-eight picks from the 2021 draft in Franz Wagner and Jalen Suggs, and Cole Anthony — the No. 15 pick in 2020.

Orlando also has the No. 6 picks from the 2017 and 2018 draft, Jonathan Isaac and Mo Bamba. It's possible that when next season starts Orlando could have as many as six lottery picks, nine top-16 selections and 12 first-rounders on its roster.

This is all part of the challenge for the Magic — who also have the No. 32 and No. 35 picks this year — going into Thursday: Finding more youth that fits with the current core, finding ways to be better next season and sustainably better for years to come.

"We do want to get better but not at the expense of rushing back to mediocrity," Weltman said. "And we do want to have something sustainable. But you have to elevate the standard to do that. You can't just stay at the basement level, you know, interminably. So those are conversations that we're having, which players do that for us."

Para-athletes program continues with success

The world of competitive sports is a great opportunity for people to prove their mettle. Through discipline and hard work, these competitors go above and beyond, achieving phenomenal feats of athletics. No group exemplifies this principle more so than the para-athletes. Through their determination and diligence, these athletes have overcome great mental and physical obstacles, proving that their disabilities will not hold them back. We have the honor and privilege of having these para-athletes competing in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

Last June 17 marked the opening ceremony of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022. During which, one of the para-athletes from Fiji was their team's flag bearer and led their team through the opening ceremony. They were only one out of a total of 31 para-athletes participating in this year's Mini Games. These competitors come from the countries of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Australia, and the Solomon Islands.

All of our para-athletes will be performing in the athletics event of the Mini Games. They will be competing in events such as the shotput, javelin throw, and 100m sprint. You can view these extraordinary athletes compete today at 4pm and 3om every other day, with the rest of the athletics events. The men's 100m sprint ambulant will take place at 7:05pm on June 21 with the women's 100m sprint ambulant taking place the following day at 6:50pm. You can watch the ambulatory men's and women's javelin throw at 3:15pm on June 23. On June 24, you will be able to watch the men's and women's wheelchair shotput secured throw at 3:15pm and the men's and women's shotput ambulant.

These athletes inspire our viewers, as they redefine what a few may consider obstacles and challenges our beliefs regarding disabilities. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tahiti para-athlete Christian Chee Ayee shakes hands with Oceania Athletics Association secretary general Robin Sapong at the Oleai track & field.

AIRMAN

From Page 20

my friends that came out. It's really a good experience and I'm thankful for the opportunity to be able to represent the NMI," he said.

As for the $2,500 incentive for the silver medal, the son of Leonardo Sr. and Ana Marie Cristobal said he'll either save or invest the money.

NMI beats Solomons in badminton

After back-to-back defeats against powerhouse teams Tahiti and New Caledonia in Day 1 of the badminton competition last Monday, the NMI's mixed team swept the Solomon Islands, 5-0, yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Andreu Galvez and Windy Fernandez kicked things off with a 21-7, 21-10 win over Joseph Matiota and Norah Meke. Leonard Manuel then made it 2-0 after taking care of Jeffery Kalia, 21-15, 21-13. Janelle Pangilinan then clinched the tie after overcoming Elizabeth Meke, 21-10, 21-16. Mop-up duties went to Ezekiel Macario and Jordan Pangilinan and Fernandez and Jenine Savellano who triumphed against Joseph Taupiri and Rodney Vaka and Emma Soaki and Catherine Temete, 21-8, 21-11 and 21-12, 21-4, respectively.

Coach James Digno applauded his players for the bounce-back effort against the Solomons.

"Well done team! I never doubted in your ability to perform. You made everyone proud today. Go NMI! Although it was Solomon Islands' first time playing at this level, they did very well. There were times the games were close. I applaud them and I hope they continue playing."

In their next game, Team NMI narrowly lost against Wallis & Fatuna, 2-3.

Guerrero and Savellano made a gallant stand before ultimately losing to Julien Dauptain and Leilana Likuvalu, 21-11, 17-21, 18-21.

Janelle Pangilinan then went down fighting against Malia Takasi, 16-21, 12-21, before Andreau Galvez succumbed to the experience of Dauptain anew, 11-21, 19-21.

Savellano and Janelle Pangilinan returned the favor though with a gutsy 21-19, 26-24 win over Takasi Endrina and Tukumuli Nau before Galvez and Jordan Pangilinan ended the tie on a high note for Team NMI with a 21-14, 21-19 victory over Damien Coffin and Corentin Likiliki.

"Well played for both teams and thank you to Wallis & Fatuna for giving us one of the most exciting games we've ever played," said Digno after the match.

Golf begins at COR

The golf competition in the 11th staging of the quadrennial event kicked off yesterday at the Coral Ocean Resort with Guam's Redge Camacho, New Caledonia's Guillaume Castagne, and Samoa's Liu Vui atop the men's leaderboard with identical 2-under par 70s.

The CNMI's J.J. Atalig and Zhi Yun Li fired 77s in the opening round, while Franco Santos and Atalig's son, Joshua, came away with a 79 and an 80, respectively.

On the women's side, Guam's Kayle Kang is tied with New Caledonia's Mohea Mansbendel and Emelise Mardalaine after all three wound up with 5-over 77s. Save for Zhimin Jin's fourth place 78, the rest of the CNMI women had a tough day at the golf course yesterday with Jeong Hyun Oh and Rose Rohringer carding similar 95s and Jeanet Torres finishing with a 104.

Tahiti shows its fangs

Outrigger canoe in the waters off the 13 Fishermen Monument saw Tahiti sweep both the men's and women's events of the day.

The Tahiti women took the gold in the V6 500 in a time of 2:18.68 followed by New Caledonia (2:19.86) and Papua New Guinea (2:32.09). The men matched the women's feat with a 1:57.62 time with New Caledonia (1:58.77) and Wallis & Futuna (2:02.74) settling for the silver and the bronze, respectively.

In the V6 1,500, Tahiti took the women's division after completing the race in 8:54.45. PNG was next in 9:07.05 followed by New Caledonia in 9:11.51. The Tahiti men won the gold in the event with a time of 7:22.63, followed by New Caledonia (7:42.81) and Wallis & Futuna (8:05.63).

Sinclair and Schorr keep winning

Doubles top seeds Colin Sinclair and Robbie Schorr advanced to the quarterfinals after blanking Solomon Islands' Clivert Vakola and Junior Michael Miki, 6-0, 6-0, yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Sinclair and Schorr also played singles with the former beating Tahiti's Heimanarii Laisan, 6-0, 6-2, and the latter taking care of Tahiti's Reynald Taaroa, 7-5, 6-2.

In the women's singles, Isabel Heras lost to Fiji's Saoirse Breen 6-0, 6-2; but for mixed doubles Heras took up her racket again and teamed up with Sinclair as they beat Fiji's Ruby Coffin and Sebastian Tikaram, 6-0, 6-1.

The NMI's last match of the day saw Hye Jin Elliot and Colin Ramsay lose to Tonga's Ela Vakaukamea and Semisi Fanguna, 6-1, 6-1.

Mister, Johnson win third straight game

Logan Mister and Andrew Johnson won their third consecutive game in men's beach volleyball after beating Wallis & Futuna yesterday.

The duo got the better of Patrick Vanai and Lupeni Lau, 21-11, 21-6, on the sand courts of Crowne Plaza.

"I feel like we played well. We just played our game and it was very consistent and sound. We did what we were supposed to do and we were able to take the victory," said Johnson after the win.

Mister said apart from wind conditions, everything went well in the game against Wallis & Futuna.

"It was a little tough playing in the wind but we managed."

Kathy Winkfield and Charnessa Lizama, meanwhile, split their assignments as they beat Palau's Kristen Suigiayama and Mitoko Charles, 21-16, 21-7; but succumbed to Guam's Kendra Byrd and Kristen Serrano in a tough three-setter, 18-21, 21-15, 10-15.

Winkfield said it feels good to get win No. 1 under their belts after beating Palau.

"We're playing our own game and we feel good. We are more relaxed today and just making sure that we make less errors and just play our game," she said.

For Lizama, better communication led to better results against Palau.

"Me and my partner communicated more and we placed [the ball] really well in terms of our shot in the second set. It boosted our confidence and we pushed for the win. So, I feel really good about it."

Medal tally

PNG has surged to the top of the medal standings with 12 gold, 7 silver, and 4 bronze medals followed by Guam (8-1-9), Tahiti (7-6-2), and the NMI (4-1-1) in the Top 4. ***(with reports from Chrystal Marino, Angel Li, and Jin Kim Abogado)***

TEAM

From Page 20

renzo Sebaklim, as Solomons batters were only able to hit one run the whole game.

On the offensive side, NMI hitters put up four runs in the first inning and an amazing 12 runs scored in just the second inning, widening the gap, 16-0, with Solomons not being able to score a run it until the game was called off in the sixth inning via the mercy rule.

Team NMI gets a rest day today to recharge their arms and swings as there's no games scheduled for them.

When NMI head coach Derron U. Flores was asked if the NMI will play Palau in the finals, he cautioned to not count Guam out. "If Guam beats Palau, we're forced to a 3-1, 3-1, 3-1 seeding and then more than likely we would have to go into a technical meeting to discuss the format for the three of us. If it's runs allowed ratio or runs given or it's played out, but I'm not sure it's not for me to decide it's the tournament committee."

The top four teams will be announced after all of today's games with the playoffs starting tomorrow, Thursday, June 23. After the playoffs, it will be the full nine-inning medal rounds on Friday, June 24.

Solomons is currently 0-3 in the standings after they lost against Palau, Guam, and the NMI. Guam is 2-1 in the standings following their win against the Solomons last Monday and will challenge Palau today at 7pm. Fiji is 0-2 in the standings and will play Solomons today at 2pm.

ATHLETICS

From Page 20

Andrew placed fourth with a 33.05m throw, Anthony Borja placed fifth with a 27.41m throw, and Mark Mapeso was last with a 25.24m throw.

In the men's octathlon 100m sprint and long jump events, NMI's Orrin Pharmin could not catch up or outleap speedy and springier Papua New Guinea athletes Karo Iga and Roland Hure as he came last in both events. The octathlon consists of eight events and the medal event will be today.

In the men's 10,000m run, PNG struck gold once again with Dilu Goiye winning the event and compatriot Simune Kagl taking the silver. Vanuatu's Simon Charley won bronze.

Over in the women's 800m run, PNG dominated once more when Scholastica Herman taking the gold. Tahiti's Estelle Gentilly won silver and Charlotte Michel took home the bronze.

Day 2 of athletics continues today with men's octathlon events in the 110m hurdles, high jump, javelin, and 1,000m along with the women's 400m sprint, women's 100m ambulant, men's 100m sprint, women's 10,000m run, women's 1,500m run, men's 800m run, men's 400m sprint, and the men's 3,000 meter steeplechase on tap.

Cole no-hit bid into 8th, Yanks beat Rays 4-2 for 50th win

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Para-athletes program continues with success

PAGE 19

Airman salvages silver in 67kg

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI won its first silver medal of the Northern Marianas Pacific Games 2022 after recent U.S. Air Force Academy graduate Lowell Cristobal salvaged second place in weightlifting's clean & jerk portion of the 67-kg class at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022

The 23-year-old failed his first two attempts at 120 kg and 125 kg, but returned with a purpose in his third and last try and I was able to lift 125 kg to the delight of the partisan home crowd.

» NMI beats Solomons in badminton

His silver medal in the clean & jerk more than made up for his lackluster performance in the snatch where he failed his last two tries after opening with a lift of 90 kg.

"It's just the nerves. It's my first international competition. I was disappointed. My personal best is at 100 kg and really the problem was my nerves. I was able to lift it up but just my lockout was the problem that got me the red lights," Cristobal said on his lifts in the snatch.

Then drama came in the clean & jerk, as the Marianas High School alumnus drew successive red lights in his first two attempts before hitting pay dirt in his third attempt.

"I knew I could lift 125 kg as I said it's just the nerves that got into me. But I know I could hit 125 kg. My personal best is 132 kg and I knew I could definitely lift 125 kg. I'm dedicating this to my family and to

See AIRMAN on Page 19

MARK RABAGO

The CNMI's Lowell Cristobal successfully lifts 125 kg in the clean & jerk portion of the 67-kg class of the Northern Marianas Pacific Games 2022 yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

MICHAEL JORNAL

The CNMI's Manuel Leonard in action against the Solomon Islands yesterday as Day 2 of badminton in the Northern Marianas Pacific Games 2022 continued yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MEDAL STANDINGS

NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022

TEAM	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Papua New Guinea	12	7	4	23
Guam	8	1	9	18
Tahiti	7	6	2	15
Northern Mariana Islands	4	1	1	6
Australia	4	1	0	5
Solomon Islands	3	14	2	19
New Caledonia	3	8	9	20
Kiribati	3	0	1	4
Palau	3	0	0	3
Tuvalu	2	0	0	2
Tonga	1	0	1	2
Fiji	0	5	7	12
Vanuatu	0	1	1	2
Wallis & Futuna	0	0	3	3
Norfolk Island	0	0	1	1
American Samoa	0	0	0	0
Cook Islands	0	0	0	0
Federated States of Micronesia	0	0	0	0
Samoa	0	0	0	0
Nauru	0	0	0	0

Team NMI blows out Solomons, 16-0

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

As the medal round draws closer in the baseball competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, Team NMI followed up its lopsided win over Fiji last Monday with another mercy-run rule decision against the Solomon Islands, 16-0, yesterday at the Francisco "Tan'Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Solomon Islands' lineup was no match for NMI pitchers LaMarc Iguel, Jacob Babauta, J.P. Sablan, and Lo-

See TEAM on Page 19

LEIGH GASES

Team NMI players tip their caps to the crowd after mercy-run ruling the Solomon, 16-0, in the baseball competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 yesterday at the Francisco "Tan'Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Athletics kicks off with 1st gold going to PNG

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

LEIGH GASES

Papua New Guinea's Debono Paraka, second from right, lines up with fellow discus throwers prior to the start of their event yesterday in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 at the Oleai track & field.

As the sun sets and bathes the area a fiery orange and yellow, the athletics events of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 went underway at the Oleai track & field with the crowd surrounding all sides of the venue to watch and cheer athletes of the men and women sprints, discus throw, long jump, shot put, and the javelin throw.

With the glowing embers of the latte torch in the background, Debono Paraka gave Papua New Guinea the first medal of athletics as he struck gold with a throw of 51.02m.

For silver, 19-year-old Jackson Mellor of Australia threw the discus at 38.40m, while Kaota Ribabaiti of Kiribati threw the discus at a distance of 35.19m to settle for the bronze.

Team NMI discus throwers put up a valiant effort as Lyle

See ATHLETICS on Page 19